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# THE JERUSALEM POST

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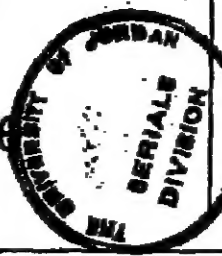
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Miriam Peretz weeps over the grave of her son, Lt. Uriel Peretz, at Mt. Herzl cemetery yesterday. Peretz, 22, was one of two soldiers killed by a Hizbullah bomb on Wednesday. (Shen-Tov/Hamir)

## PM: Israel to review Lebanon withdrawal

By DANNA HARMAN and DAVID RUDGE

LONDON — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu indicated yesterday that Israel is ready to review security arrangements to pave the way for an IDF withdrawal from Lebanon.

Speaking a day after two Golani Brigade soldiers were killed in a Hizbullah bomb attack in the security zone, Netanyahu told reporters here:

"As soon as we find a way to withdraw forces without abandoning the need, and the ability, to defend our northern villages and towns, and without abandoning our allies in the south... we shall withdraw from Lebanon."

"When I return to Israel, I will initiate a process, which will take several weeks, for a reassessment... of our current methods and tactics in the North [of Israel] in order to at once increase protection of our own forces there and at the same time accelerate the process of achieving the goals that I have just outlined," he added.

"Our intention, our policy... is to leave Lebanon," Netanyahu said. "But only under the necessary security conditions. We do not intend to put our tail between our legs, and just leave."



Lt. Uriel Peretz

IDF and South Lebanese Army troops are on full alert in case of a further escalation in fighting after the attack in the security zone last night.

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Soldiers laid to rest, Page 3

In one incident, an IDF tank and armored vehicle were reportedly hit by a roadside bomb. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for that attack, which caused no casualties, and for firing mortars at IDF troops in the area.

In the attack late Wednesday night, three or four explosive devices were detonated while the soldiers were about 600 meters from the Tel Kabah outpost — the same outpost where three Golani soldiers were killed and four were wounded last week.

Wednesday's deaths brought to five the number of soldiers — all from the Golani Brigade — killed



St-Sgt. Nitzan Balderan

zone last night. In one incident, an IDF tank and armored vehicle were reportedly hit by a roadside bomb. Hizbullah claimed responsibility for that attack, which caused no casualties, and for firing mortars at IDF troops in the area.

Wednesday's deaths brought to five the number of soldiers — all from the Golani Brigade — killed

in the security zone in just over a week. Seven soldiers have been wounded — four seriously — in this period.

Since the beginning of the year, 20 IDF soldiers and an Israeli civilian, as well as 31 South Lebanese Army soldiers have died.

Most have been killed in Hizbullah bombings, and others by long-range firing at outposts, patrols and convoys.

As many as 60 gunmen from Hizbullah, Amal and other organizations have been killed in clashes, ambushes, long-range shelling and raids by IAF warplanes and helicopter gunships since January.

The government plans to discuss the Lebanese situation on Sunday, Education Minister Yitzhak Levy said yesterday.

Netanyahu said that an evaluation of the situation in Lebanon was being carried out on two levels, with one level being a serious assessment of IDF tactics and strategies in southern Lebanon, and the other, work on reaching a long-term solution involving a withdrawal.

He said increased attention would be given to both levels in the coming weeks.

See LEBANON, Page 17

## Netanyahu urges lower interest rates

By DANNA HARMAN

LONDON — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday made a rare call for a reduction in interest rates, saying this is the only way to advance economic growth.

Speaking to reporters here, Netanyahu said: "I think we will surprise you by passing the budget. As far as inflation targets, we will look at that. The critical thing for me is how to lower interest rates. Because I want to move this economy to growth, and to move it to growth you have got to reduce interest rates. I hope to address that in the government meeting which we will have next week on these sorts of matters."

He added that the purpose of the meeting would be a "review of economic policy."

The Bank of Israel had no immediate comment. The central bank said on Monday that it would leave the key lending rate unchanged at 13.5 percent. The decision followed two controversial rate hikes, each by two percentage points, within the space of two weeks.

Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frankel yesterday attacked calls for a retreat from next year's 4% inflation goal, as some ministers suggest, and the establishment of a board of governors at the central bank, as some MKs are proposing. He spoke at the annual meeting of Israel's insurance agents in Tel Aviv.

In an interview with *The Jerusalem Post*, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund Stanley Fischer said that to the outside world Frankel is "a bulwark of stability."

Full report, Page 10

## Hizbullah has its own logic of escalation

ANALYSIS

While Syria undoubtedly has an interest in letting its proxies heat up the situation in the security zone and along the northern border, it should be remembered that Hizbullah has its own agenda.

Syrian President Hafez Assad, whose new protégé in Lebanon, former Lebanese Army commander Gen. Emile Lahoud, was sworn in this week as president of the land of the cedars, may have felt sidelined in the recent flurry of regional diplomatic activity.

Allowing a controlled escalation of the fighting in south Lebanon is one way of reminding Israel, the US and the international community that the fox of Damascus has not lost any of his willingness, despite Syria's apparent capitulation recently to Turkey on the Kurdish rebels issue.

Syria, however, does not dictate to Hizbullah what it should do — especially not in the military field. The extremist Shi'ite organization, funded, armed and inspired by Iran, can be restrained by the Syrians when so desired, but it acts independently.

The relatively sudden escalation in its operations, particularly against IDF targets, coincides with a top-level visit to Teheran by a Hizbullah delegation led by secretary-general Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah.

Nasrallah has his own critics both within the organization and in the Iranian capital and he is only well aware that continued support for him and Hizbullah is dependent to a large extent on military successes against Israel, in Teheran's words, "the Little Satan" and in Hizbullah terminology, the "Zionist enemy."

Victories on the battlefield, however, require planning, training and the development of new methods to combat the counter-measures developed by the IDF and the SLA.

Hizbullah, in the first few months of the year, suffered heavy losses, especially among its elite "front-line" troops trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guard instructors.

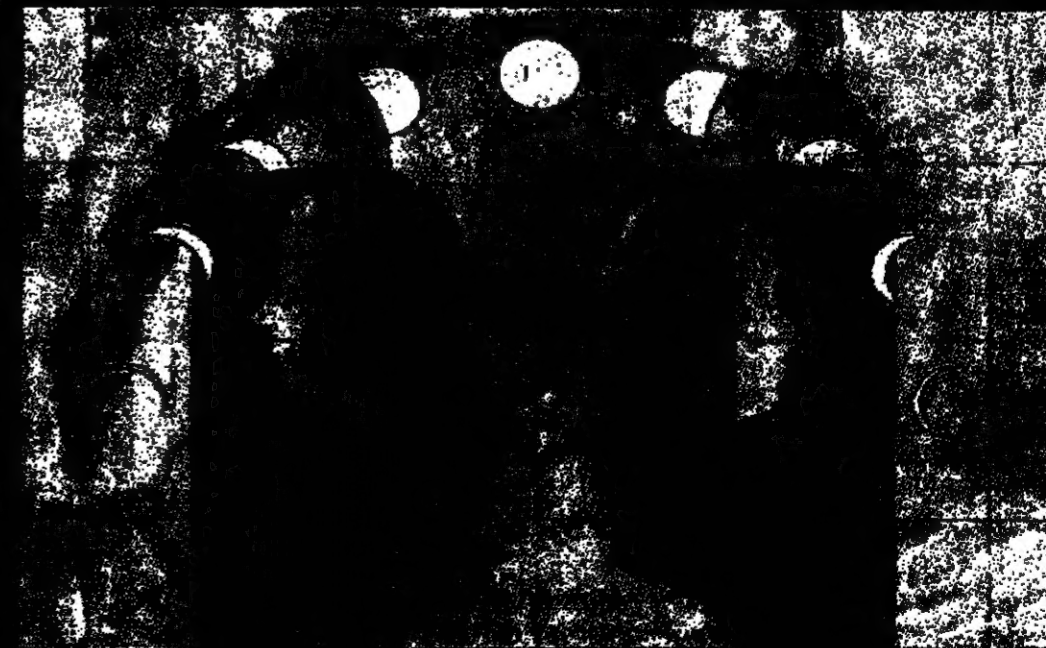
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**Romanian National Day**  
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The Treasures of Romania  
see today's Jerusalem Post

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# Landau calls to hit Syria; Beilin urges withdrawal

By NINA GILBERT

The rising price of Israel's presence in Lebanon spurred renewed debate yesterday among politicians over how to put an end to the losses, with calls ranging from inflicting a painful retaliation on the Syrians to unilateral withdrawal.

MK Uzi Landau (Likud), chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, called on the government to take steps against Syrian targets in Lebanon, and to stop covering to terror.

"What is important now is not to decide whether to withdraw or not," he said, "but to change the rules of the game between us and the Syrians in Lebanon, and to stop giving them a blank check for terror."

According to Landau, Israel's policy against harming Syria is giving the Syrians immunity for their actions. Landau suggested that Israel learn from Turkey's dealings with Syria. "Turkey told Syria that if you send terror groups, you are risking war and the Syrians surrendered," he said.

"Israel cannot accept a situation in which it is being attacked. We must say that if Israeli soldiers are

hit by road-side bombs, Syrian soldiers and interests in Lebanon will be hit too," Landau said.

MK Yossi Beilin (Labor) said "We need to simply get out. In the end we will leave, and the longer we stay, the heavier the price we will pay, and it will be in vain." He said he saw no reason to protect Israeli territory from abroad.

Likud whip MK Meir Shestet rejected the idea of a unilateral withdrawal, saying there is no one to replace Israel in protecting the North. It would lead to a situation in which Hizbullah would attack Israel from a closer point, he said.

"This would destroy all of Israel's deterrent power, and amount to giving a prize to Hizbullah," he said.

MK Ephraim Sneh (Labor) also rejected the idea of a unilateral withdrawal. Israel can't withdraw from Lebanon, he said, since it would signal weakness and that Hizbullah can move to Israel's border.

According to Sneh, the only way to break the deadlock is to apply pressure on Syria.

The first option, he said, is to hold full, open negotiations with Syria. "Israel should tell Syria to first stop Hizbullah, then come to the White House for negotiations,"

he said.

If these measures don't work, Sneh said, pain can be inflicted on Syria in many different ways. Tourism and business in Beirut richens Syria, he noted.

"Pressure can be applied without harming a single Syrian soldier. They harm a vital interest of ours in the North. Let's harm one of their vital interests, that is how policy is conducted in the Middle East."

In an interview with Israel Radio, Beilin said that no government wants to take the risk of withdrawing because they fear the public repercussions from the first Katyusha that hits the North. As a result, he said, they sit and say that there is nothing that can be done without Syrian President Hafez Assad.

But, he said, "it shouldn't be up to Assad to give us a green light. The time has come to say to Assad that it is not in his hands to give us the green light or not, and we are not dependent on him."

Beilin argued that Israel can go ahead and implement Security Council Resolution 425, which he noted the government accepted earlier this year. "UNIFIL can replace us in southern Lebanon along with the Lebanese Army,

and [we can] say to the Syrians and Hizbullah that we will continue to uphold the Operation Grapes of Wrath understandings, while sitting on the international border. These understandings determined that there will be no attacks on Israel."

Labor's faction whip Elie Goldschmidt called on Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to immediately reopen negotiations with the Syrians at the point they were stopped. "The transfer of weapons from Iran via Syria to Hizbullah shows that without a political solution, the deaths of soldiers will continue," he said.

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid said talk of a unilateral withdrawal is "like throwing sand in one's eyes because even Yossi Beilin's proposal is based on an agreement with some element in Lebanon. There's no such thing as a unilateral withdrawal." Dedi Zucker (Meretz) said the two soldiers who were killed Wednesday night, Sgt. Nitzan Balderan and Lt. Uriel Peretz, did not lose their lives protecting the northern settlements.

Another Meretz MK, Ran Cohen, who is a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said that "a government whose sons are falling every week needs to find a solution, even if it means negotiating with the devil himself, otherwise it has no reason to exist."

According to Cohen, the results in Lebanon show that the government is not holding secret talks with Syria. "It's a lie. There is no rapprochement with Syria that is bringing our presence in Lebanon closer to an end. [The government] is therefore creating illusions and false hopes for which IDF soldiers must pay with their lives."

Liat Collins contributed to this report



Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook (left) speak to reporters yesterday at Cook's residence in London. (AP)

## Cook praises PM's courage

By DANNA HARMAN

LONDON - Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook traded barbs about broken dinner dates and skirted the issue of settlement building in their first face-to-face meeting since the Har Homa fiasco earlier this year.

Netanyahu, who is on a two-day visit to Britain, said his meeting with Cook yesterday highlighted the "excellent relations" between the countries.

Netanyahu updated Cook on the implementation of the Wye accords, and also asked that Britain join hands with Israel and the US in the fight against ballistic missile technology transfer.

Cook, in turn, heaped praise on Netanyahu, congratulating him

for his "statesmanship in securing the Wye agreement," and for his "courage in carrying through with the agreement."

"I know it has been a tough and difficult challenge, but he has the backing of the majority of his people and the international community in the making of that progress towards peace," said Cook at a joint press conference.

"Britain understands the patience and the courage which has led to this success in the peace process," he added.

"We want to give every help to the prime minister in trying to make sure the Wye agreement works," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair, who hosted Netanyahu for dinner yesterday.

"One of the reasons I am so happy to have the prime minister here

this evening is to express my support and solidarity and my willingness to give any help we can."

Blair added however, that the primary responsibility for making the agreement work, lies with the parties themselves.

Cook said that Britain is ready to play a "full part" in the way of financial and technical help which may be needed to move forward on key issues such as water, safe passage, the Gaza seaport and security.

He said Britain has provided the PA with a security advisor, and further announced that at next Monday's donor conference, Britain would pledge a £100 million aid package to the PA and UNRWA.

See PM, Page 17

## "You Can't Dance With A Murderer"

We are all extremely grateful to Mohammed Dahlan, the Palestinian Security Chief, for his frank admissions in an interview in Gaza, as reported on the front page of The Jerusalem Post of Sunday, November 22, 1998. Dahlan put it this way: "Why did we ask to release the political prisoners?...because it was us - myself, Mr. Arafat and Abu Mazen - who sent them out on their operations in the first place."

For those of us who entertained only a suspicion heretofore, we now have it authenticated from an unimpeachable source that it was Arafat and his cohorts who, despite entering into the Rabin-Peres-Arafat Oslo Accords, were consciously and surreptitiously violating the specific terms thereof from the very outset. Despite what Arafat was promising Rabin in a personal letter renouncing terror, he was in fact simultaneously actively engaged in promoting violence and terror against his peace partner. Never mind that his actions were in direct contradiction to both the specific terms of Oslo. More important, it revealed that Arafat was laughing up his sleeve at naive Peres and Rabin for having chosen him, an unremitting terrorist, as their peace partner. The message has become crystal clear: The word, or even specific writings of commitment from such a peace partner as Arafat and/or the PLO, is of no value whatsoever, and cannot be relied on, neither now nor in the future.

It is therefore not an unfounded rumor that Arafat has requested of Hamas that they temporarily refrain from acts of violence against Jews and the State of Israel. That is, at least until Israel fulfills what Arafat and the U.S. persuaded Netanyahu to do under Wye,

to turn over further large sectors of its small national homeland to Arafat and the PLO. Such a ploy is entirely consistent with the Arafat and PLO overall strategy of destroying Israel in stages. The sudden temporary turning off of the tap of violence - of stone throwing, fire bombs and the like, moreover, is no mere coincidence. Such surprising concerted behavior on the part of the Arab community as a whole throughout Israel, Judea, Samaria and Gaza gives the lie to what Arafat has been saying all along. When requested to control such terror, his reply in the past has been that he cannot control these isolated maverick, and individual acts. When he really wanted to however, his message got through to the Arabs. He simply told them in effect: "Don't upset the apple cart at a time when I have maneuvered the Jews into foolishly giving away their land free of charge or obligation." With such a "peace partner", there is no possibility of a real and lasting peace.

Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon recognized this from the very outset of Oslo. On September 3, 1993 he wrote an Op-Ed article in the Jerusalem Post, entitled, "You Can't Dance With a Murderer." Sharon, there, prophetically stated: "...By recognizing this murderer's organization, the PLO, the government has committed an act of madness. By reviving Israel's greatest enemy on the eve of its disintegration and turning it into Israel's shield against Hamas, the government has added crime to folly... There can be no reconciliation, historic or otherwise, with the man who ordered the murders of schoolchildren in Avivim, Ma'alot and Antwerp, of eleven Jewish athletes in Munich..." What say you now, Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon?

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## Lebanon's toll

### BACKGROUND

By ANNE SULLIVAN

The recent high-profile incidents in southern Lebanon have once again sparked public and political scrutiny over just what the IDF is doing there. But long after the current public debate on the IDF's deployment in the security zone is over, Israeli soldiers will continue to serve on Israel's last active front and the IDF will continue to suffer from the prolonged effects of fighting a guerrilla war against a smaller and weaker force.

Besides the 21 Israelis killed and dozens wounded so far this year, Lebanon has taken its toll on the IDF. In an effort to reduce casualties it has drastically cut back on the number of convoys resupplying outposts and is reportedly considering reducing the number of outposts altogether.

Senior IDF commanders have said that they would not let the pub-

lic's hypersensitivity to casualties influence their military actions. But the truth is the fear of casualties has changed the army's priorities in Lebanon. Its mission now is protect the North with the minimum amount of losses.

When Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz took command of the IDF in July, eight soldiers had been killed against over 40 Hizbullah and Amal gunmen. Mofaz declared that he wanted to sharpen the Israeli warrior's fighting spirit and that there would be no compromise in the contact with the enemy.

But since then, a dozen soldiers and one Israeli civilian working in Lebanon have been killed and IDF soldiers have not succeeded in killing very many Islamic gunmen.

See BACKGROUND, Page 17

## Barak slams unity talks

By SARAH HONIG and DANNA HARMAN

Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak lashed out yesterday at those in his party who advocate entering a Likud-led national unity coalition.

"They are spineless," he charged, "if they are willing to crawl at any price into that government."

Barak was referring to reports that his predecessor, Shimon Peres, has been meeting Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon for months with the aim of furthering the national unity cause.

The most recent tete-a-tete between the two took place last Wednesday.

Peres yesterday denied that he plans to split Labor and enter the Netanyahu coalition with a third of the party's MKs.

MK Binyamin Ben Eliezer reportedly met with Prime

## Eitan denies he's retiring

Tsomet leader and Agriculture Minister Rafael Eitan hady denied a *Yedioth Aharanot* page one story yesterday which claimed he is getting ready to retire from politics.

Eitan maintained that "nothing at all like this is being planned now. I am going to turn 70 in six weeks and I imagine that it's time to start thinking all sorts of thoughts about the future. However, there is nothing at all like an operative concrete plan afoot." Sarah Honig

Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to discuss the national unity option as well.

See BARAK, Page 17

## Winning Numbers

In yesterday's Payis Haza drawing, ticket number 724052 won NIS 1.5 million, while ticket number 892291 won the car. Tickets 672750, 096379, 192155, 840620, 677663, 153325, 449714 and 738200 won NIS 5,000. Tickets ending in 14733, 24578, 95564, 00774, 04381, 05381, 77311, 26141, 30477, 55189, 53122, 61747, 41261, 37197, 27235, 41564, 98102, 86044 and 97685 won NIS 1,000. Tickets ending in 113, 768, 132 and 542 won NIS 100. Tickets ending in 50, 65, 84 and 77 won 30 NIS. Tickets ending in 82 and 56 won 20 NIS. Tickets ending in 0 and 5 won NIS 10.

## CORRECTIONS

Colette Avital, head of the European division at the Foreign Ministry, is not on unpaid leave, as reported in yesterday's paper.

The Tel Aviv Community Theater's English-language production of William Inge's *Picnic* will be at Yad Lebanim in Tel Aviv on Saturday and Sunday at 8:30 p.m., and not as stated in *Time Out*.



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## Similar attacks claim 5 victims in one week

By DAVID HODGE

The bomb attack in which Lt. Uriel Peretz and St. Sgt. Nitzan Balderan were killed occurred shortly after 11 P.M. on Wednesday - a few hundred meters from the Tel Kabah outpost where three other Golani Brigade soldiers died and four others wounded in a similar incident last Monday.

As in the previous case, the soldiers had just left the position. They were on their way to a mission - a military euphemism for an ambush, reconnaissance patrol or observation duty.

In the incident last Monday, the soldiers were hit by a Claymore anti-personnel mine, apparently operated by remote control, while on their way to day-time shooting practice.

It is believed that on that occasion, a squad of two or three gunmen had taken advantage of thick mist the previous night to plant the device, just 35 meters from the Tel Kabah position.

There was also heavy mist in the area on Wednesday night when the patrol headed by Peretz, followed by Balderan and the remainder of the unit, set out on their mission.

They had already been given instructions to be fully alert in case of explosive devices, because of the previous incident,

despite the closeness of the outpost to the border. It is less than a kilometer from Kibbutz Manara.

They had also been warned that the same Hizbullah squad responsible for last Monday's attack might still be in the area. The troops were cautious, stopping every now and again, checking the ground and their surroundings and making sure they were not bunched up together.

About 600 meters from the outpost a chain of three or four explosive devices were detonated either by remote control or pressure and trip wire devices.

Peretz and Balderan who were behind him were killed in the blast, but the fact that the unit had adhered to regulations and kept a safe distance from one another prevented further casualties.

Some of the soldiers in subsequent debriefings said they had seen shadows of two or more men fleeing the scene immediately prior to the explosion.

"I met with the soldiers shortly after the incident and I want to tell you that I saw soldiers who were pained by the loss of their comrades on the one hand, but who acted professionally and carried out the series of actions one would expect after such an incident," said OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi.

## IDF casualties in Lebanon during 1998

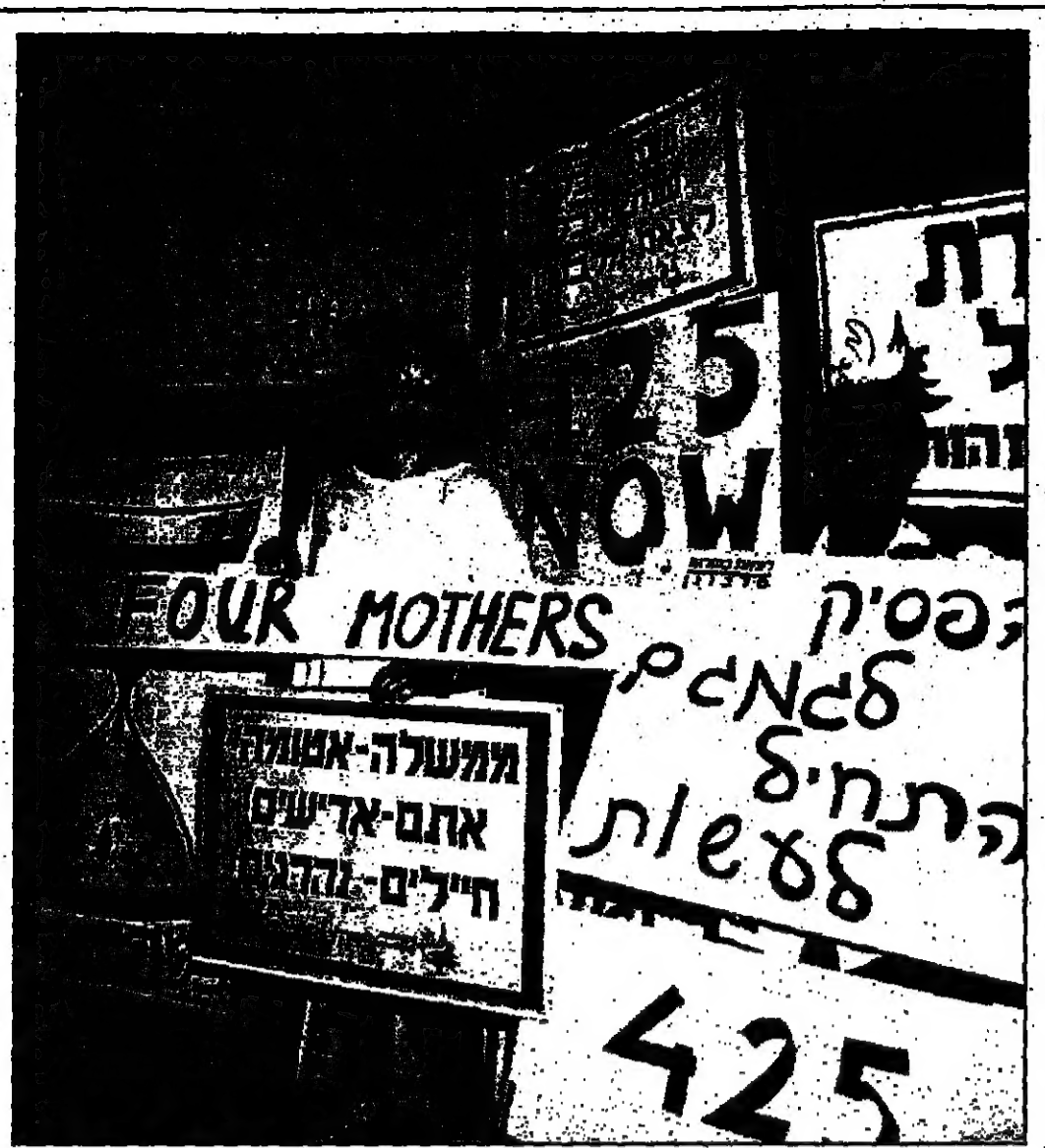
By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

The following is a chronological list describing the circumstances in which 20 IDF soldiers have fallen in battle this year in Lebanon:

- February 2 - IDF Sgt. Nikolai Rappaport, 23, was killed and four other Givati soldiers wounded in a clash with Hizbullah guerrillas north of the Karkum outpost. Nikolai was killed when he set off a bomb. Three Hizbullah gunmen are also killed.
- February 26 - Three soldiers, Lt. Assaf Rosenfeld, 21, First Sgt. Eshel, 21 and St. Sgt. Nitzan Balderan, 28, were killed and three other IDF soldiers wounded when a Hizbullah mortar round scored a direct hit on their bunker in the security zone.
- May 28 - Two soldiers, St. Sgt. Yehuda Salem, 20, and St. Sgt. Avraham Limor, 20, were killed and two soldiers wounded when a roadside charge exploded in the central sector of the security zone.
- June 25 - Two soldiers Lt. Asid Oculin, 21, and Sgt. Or Cohen, 19, were killed and four soldiers wounded by a bobby-trapped bomb while on their way to a raid in south Lebanon.
- July 30 - St. Sgt. Shohar Mintz, 21, was killed and five soldiers wounded by mortar and heavy machine gun fire when in an ambush by Hizbullah gunmen dur-

ing shooting practice. A second IDF force charged the guerrillas and set off a bomb, causing no casualties.

- August 19 - St. Sgt. Uri Sammelov, 21, was killed and four soldiers wounded by a bomb while on duty in the eastern sector of the security zone.
- August 20 - A roadside charge blew up killing St. Sgt. Moshe Biton, 21, and Amos Calpha, a 24-year-old civilian working for the IDF.
- September 19 - Two soldiers, Sgt. Omer Eshed and Sgt. Eran Aziel, were killed when their armored vehicle plunged over a cliff into a Litani River ravine. It was never determined why the driver kept moving towards the cliff despite radio pleas to halt.
- October 5 - Two soldiers, St. Sgt. Zohar Doron, 21, and Sgt. Magen Friedman, 22, were killed by a chain of roadside charges set off as their convoy passed near Hatzbaya in the security zone.
- November 16 - Three soldiers, Sgt. Nahum Elah, 19, Sgt. Raz Promovitch, 19, and Sgt. Yosef Ben-Muha, 19, were killed by a roadside bomb set off as they left their outpost in Tel Kabah on their way to target practice. Four other soldiers were wounded.
- November 26 - Two soldiers, Lt. Uriel Peretz, 22, and First Sgt. Nitzan Balderan, 19, were killed by an explosive charge near the Tel Kabah outpost.



**Campaigning for withdrawal**  
The Four Mothers group demonstrates outside the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv, the day after two more IDF soldiers are killed, calling for withdrawal from Lebanon. (Tom Oren/Kelevis/Israel Sun)

## Two fallen soldiers laid to rest

By ELLI WOHLGELER

Hundreds attended the funeral yesterday of the two IDF soldiers killed in an explosion on Wednesday night in south Lebanon.

St. Sgt. Nitzan Balderan, 19, was the first to be buried in a new cemetery on a hill next to his native Kibbutz Lotem in Galilee.

"We never thought of starting a cemetery here, because we always thought, here everyone lives, we don't die. And today, here we are burying you here Nitzan, and we just can't believe it," kibbutz secretary Eitan Kalifa said. "Only recently you purchased a motorcycle to travel around the country."

Balderan is survived by his mother Tzipi, the kibbutz accountant, and his father Jackie, who works at the Lotem-Plast factory. Both had immigrated from France 20 years ago and are among the kibbutz's founders. The Balderans have two other sons, Yigal, 23 and Aviv, who is in 12th grade.

Lt. Uriel Peretz, who was buried in the Mount Herzl cemetery, died on his 22nd birthday. Peretz, of Givat Ze'ev, was promoted to lieutenant after his death.

Peretz "was always happy, was always laughing," said his cousin Rami Baron. "He was also very modest, and

a good friend, who worried about everyone."

In what seems now to have been a foreshadowing, Peretz asked his mother two weeks ago, when he was home on leave, to videotape him.

"She didn't want to, she was afraid," Baron said. "She said it was like he knew he was going to die."

Peretz leaves behind five siblings, including a brother who is also serving in the Golani Brigade. His father works in the Health Ministry, and his mother is a principal at a Givat Ze'ev high school.

Baron said her cousin "loved to go diving, he would go down to Elat for the water there. He loved all sports, really, he was very energetic. He also loved to hike the country - he really loved this land."

One of Peretz's younger brothers, Eliyahu, eulogized him by reading out a letter he had written, wishing Uriel a happy birthday.

Interior Minister Eliyahu Shalev, a friend of the family, choked back tears as he said at the funeral that there has to be more brotherhood among Israelis.

"Why is it that this unity and empathy only comes out after tragedies such as these?" Shalev asked.

News agencies contributed to this report.

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# Students end hunger strike

By HEIDI GLEIT  
and ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Students ended their hunger strike last night after an appeal from President Ezer Weizman.

But even as they were biting into their first solid food for 18 days, many of the approximately 50 students who had been on a hunger strike declared that the students' strike is still on, and that classes would not resume until an agreement is signed.

"The strike isn't over yet," said Dvir Blivis, who was one of the hunger strikers. "It will end when we sign the right agreement. Tomorrow we're holding another rally in Kikar Rabin... We're going to continue the strike until the negotiations with the prime minister result in something that will improve the state of higher education."

"I feel very good, we got through something that wasn't so very simple, but because of the goal, and because the people who were there supported one another, we managed," he added.

Weizman's appeal for an end to the hunger strike, followed appeals by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and student leaders on Wednesday after they reached a tentative agreement to lower students' expenses and improve their conditions.



Students work on a jigsaw puzzle yesterday in front of the prime minister's residence as they continue their hunger strike. Yesterday was the 18th - and last - day of the strike. (Israel Herald)

Tel Aviv University student union leader Erez Eshel said that the students ended the hunger strike "because the president asked them

to stop, the prime minister asked them to stop, [and] we asked them to stop."

"The strike continues, but we

decided that they should stop the hunger strike," Eshel said, because they had reached a point where they were in danger, "not only physical-

ly but mentally, and we really believe that, hopefully, Sunday or Monday things will finish."

Blivis, a first-year medical student, said that "the first and most important reason" he and the other students agreed to resume eating was health. Student leaders' faith in the tentative agreement and Weizman's intervention also convinced them to end the strike, he added.

Student leaders, Netanyahu, Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman, and Education Minister Yitzhak Levy reached agreement on most of the issues the students were striking over during marathon negotiations on Wednesday.

Some of the still-unresolved points include a 50 percent reduction in tuition in exchange for community service; compensation for performing reserve duty; and dropping charges against students who were arrested during this strike. Student leaders hope these issues will be resolved during negotiations that are expected to continue on Sunday, after Netanyahu returns from Europe.

A mass rally and march in solidarity with the students is planned for 11 a.m. today, starting at Kikar Rabin in Tel Aviv. Main thoroughfares, including Ben-Gurion and Dizengoff streets, will be closed between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Prison Service head:

## It's tough to stop Hamas activities

By ARNOLD O'SULLIVAN

Reacting to accusations by the General Security Service that jails were operating as Hamas command centers, the head of the Prison Service said yesterday that it couldn't be prevented.

"There is no way we can seal the prisons," said Prison Service Commissioner Amos Azani.

"These prisoners have legal rights to be visited by family and we are speaking about hundreds every day. They have visits by their lawyers," Azani said.

A senior security official said that prisons, particularly Ashkelon Prison, have served as operational centers for Hamas.

Such details have emerged from a probe by the GSS which led to the arrest of dozens of Hamas activists and the prevention of attacks.

According to the official, Hamas had planned to blow up car bombs in five cities, kidnap Israeli politicians like Agriculture Minister and former IDF chief of general staff Rafael Eitan. Haifa Mayor Amram

Mitzna and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. Prisoners were allegedly involved in organizing and planning the attacks by smuggling instructions out of jail.

"We have in prison, including Ashkelon Prison, very many [Hamas] leaders who have been tried. I never heard of a center, but ad hoc organization can happen. You have to remember that they live together in cells," Azani told Israel Radio, adding that passing messages was not impossible.

"You don't need many people to transfer messages, one is enough."

Azani said the Prison Service was taking many steps to prevent the passing of messages, and has prevented some in the past.

But he added that the GSS had only recently shared with them the scope of such activities in jail.

"At the moment we will take the necessary steps to curb this activity and prevent the transfer of messages as much as we can. But for now the potential in their hands is very high," Azani said.

## PM blasts antisemitism in Russia

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu spoke out strongly yesterday about growing antisemitism in Russia, saying that the problem was greater for Russia than even for the Jews.

"The problem of antisemitism can be addressed as long as we have a Jewish land and a Jewish state," said Netanyahu at a press conference in London. "We can take in all the Jews in distress."

He added: "The problem of antisemitism, is that it is the virus of bigotry and violence, an internal implosion that affects all the societies that are effected by this virus. It starts with the hatred of Jews, it never ever ends there. It effects all the other aspects of hate, xenophobia, bigotry, hatred of minorities, disavowal of human rights."

Danna Harman

## Olmert: Jerusalem Foundation lies in its financial figures

Foundation's director: Mayor out of his mind

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

The war of words between the Jerusalem municipality and the Jerusalem Foundation reached new heights - or depths - yesterday, with the mayor saying that the foundation lies with its financial figures, and the foundation's director saying the mayor "is out of his mind."

At issue is the municipality's refusal to end the alliance between them after 32 years, as reported first in *The Jerusalem Post* yesterday.

Mayor Ehud Olmert, upon his return to the country yesterday, lashed out at the foundation for its management, its allocations,

and for the dollar figures it publishes, which he called "outright lies."

For example, he said, when the city was given a contribution list by the foundation for 1998 for \$30 million, "when we analyzed it, of the \$30 million we hardly could locate \$10 million. They counted \$1 million from the Safra family for Safra Square. Five years ago they put it down as a \$10 million contribution, but since it is paid out every year with \$1 million, so they also put it down every year as \$1 million. He's out of his mind, I must tell you."

The same is true with the Tisch family and their contribution to the zoo," Olmert added.

Ruth Cheshin, the director of the foundation, said Olmert's charges are "a joke, because every year we issue a financial report, and this report is open to the public. How does he dare say it? We can take him to court for saying that. He doesn't know what he's saying."

"What appears in our annual financial report is what we get that year, not what we got 10 years ago, and not what we will get 10 years from now. He didn't do his homework. I'm afraid. I'm ashamed, it's very childish, I must say," she added.

Cheshin said the financial report is approved by the executive board, following a report from the financial committee. "They sign it - how does he dare to doubt these people? Would they give their signature to something which is not real? He's not insulting me, he's insulting them. He's out of his mind, I must tell you."

Olmert said that contrary to Tel Aviv, where the former mayor Shlomo Lahat gave over the running of that city's foundation to his successor, Roni Milo, "when I became mayor, not only did Teddy [Kollek] not resign from the foundation, they tried to mislead me by saying that if a political person like me will be at the head, the foundation will lose its tax status."

The foundation then offered him the title of honorary chairman, which he refused, and a position as a member of the executive committee, which Olmert also turned down.

Cheshin said the Jerusalem Foundation is not like the Tel Aviv Foundation, because there "it was set up by the city. There the city provided matching funds. We were never part of the municipality, we are a separate legal entity."



Israeli and Palestinian protesters shield their faces from tear gas fired yesterday by the IDF while dispersing a demonstration against land confiscation near Burkin in the West Bank. (Reuters)

## 2 hurt in clash with IDF near Jenin

By MARGOT DUKERTON and MOHAMMED NAJIB

The IDF fired rubber bullets to disperse Palestinian stone-throwers outside the District Coordinating Office outside Jenin yesterday. Two Palestinians were lightly injured and taken to hospital.

The protest, organized by Fatah, was in demand of the release of Palestinian prisoners. It began with a march by about 500 Palestinians through Jenin to the DCO, which is where the IDF and Palestinian police are posted to coordinate security.

Some demonstrators held signs saying: "No peace without release of all prisoners." Soldiers also fired tear gas and

rubber bullets at a building site near Burkin, a village not far from Kalkiya, where Gush Shalom activists demonstrated alongside Palestinians against confiscation of land for a bypass road.

The IDF spokesman said the soldiers had to take action because the demonstrators interfered with road construction work.

In Hebron, police broke up a scuffle outside Beit Hadassah between settlers and Palestinian school pupils.

The headmistress of the Katouba girls school and three pupils were held for questioning.

The settlers and Palestinians gave different accounts of how the fight began.

According to the settlers, about 40 pupils had marched with Palestinian flags towards the Jewish Quarter, and a scuffle ensued after the settlers asked them to leave.

Palestinian sources said the pupils had been on their way to board a bus for an outing in Jerusalem. They said that settlers had started to push the girls, aged 6 to 14, back towards the school.

"We were so scared," one of the girls, Ula Natshe, 10, said.

Judea and Samaria Police Spokesman Opher Sivan said the students were asked to end their protest and return to school. When they refused, several were detained, he said.

Sivan added that the Palestinians alleged that the settlers were harassing them.

After the crowd broke up several schoolgirls fainted and were taken to the hospital for treatment. Palestinian sources said 11 girls were hurt, but didn't specify the nature of their injuries.

Meanwhile, Peace Now wrote Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai asking him to retract permission granted to the settlers to build a museum and yeshiva at the site of the old railway station in Sebassiya.

Also yesterday, the Beit El military court yesterday ordered the suspect in the fatal stabbing of October 9 of IDF soldier Michal Adato outside the settlement of Tomer, held until the end of his trial.

The suspect was identified as Amad Rashad Rahman Kamil of Kalkiya.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

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BY JUDY SEEZEL

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# Matza aims to include all AIDS drugs in health basket

By JUDY SIEGEL

Health Minister Yehoshua Matza aims to include in the basket of health services all drugs developed in the future for treating AIDS and slowing the HIV virus. The Health Ministry and voluntary organizations will mark World AIDS Day on Tuesday. The ministry has spent NIS 15 million this year on blood testing and education efforts, Matza said. Ministry AIDS steering committee chairman Dr. Zvi Ben-Yishai said he is satisfied with that level, considering the great budgetary pressures on health services. However, voluntary organiza-

tions such as the Israel AIDS Task Force, which no longer receives funding from the ministry, argue that the budget is "severely inadequate." Some 30 million people around the world are HIV carriers - all but three million unaware of it - and 16,000 new infections occur each day. According to World Health Organization estimates, 11.7 million - including many children in the Third World - already have died of AIDS because treatment with the highly expensive protease inhibitors is unthinkably to their governments. In Israel, the Health Ministry campaign is aimed at promoting

"safe sex" to prevent further infection. According to the ministry spokesman, from January 1 this year until now, only 15 people have shifted from the state of HIV carrier to full-blown AIDS patient, thanks to the "cocktail" of drugs that are now covered by the health funds. He said that 110 Israeli AIDS patients are alive today; a total of 505 (415 men and 90 women) have been diagnosed since 1981, while the rest have died or left the country. There are 1,878 reported HIV carriers, but the AIDS Task Force claims there are many more who

have not been tested. Ben-Yishai concedes that he knows little about the number of HIV carriers among illegal foreign workers, as they are reluctant to come for testing for fear that they will be deported. There are eight public AIDS centers affiliated to the hospitals, where people may go for testing and treatment. Every year, some 150,000 people undergo voluntary blood tests for AIDS. In addition, the AIDS Task Force runs a testing center in Tel Aviv for people who don't want to identify themselves, and Hadassah-University Hospital's Straus Clinic will next week begin

offering anonymous testing two days a week. On Tuesday, the Israel AIDS Task Force will open information booths on the disease and its prevention on all Jerusalem campuses of the Hebrew University, at the Jerusalem Mall, outside Hamashbir in the center of town, and outside the Israel Museum. Various parties will be held at Ha'oman in Jerusalem and in Tel Aviv with proceeds going to the cause. At the Knesset from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., a discussion of anonymous testing will be held. Led by Minister Limor Livnat and MK Yael Dayan, the discussion will include two female AIDS patients.

## NEWS in brief

### Yitzhak Levy blasts Neeman for withholding funds

Education Minister Yitzhak Levy (NRP) sharply criticized Finance Minister Yankov Neeman yesterday for refusing to transfer funds for special education to his ministry unless the National Religious Party supports Neeman's economic arrangements bill. During last minute negotiations on the budget, Neeman promised to provide the Education Ministry with funds for some 10,000 class hours, most of which would go towards special education, Levy claimed. *Itim*

### France lends out art looted by Nazis

French museums have for 50 years been routinely sending abroad for exhibit art masterworks that were looted by the Nazis, the World Jewish Congress said yesterday. It said that works by Picasso, Matisse and Leger had been placed on display in Berlin, London and New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art without any indication that they were stolen and technically not owned by France. Museums involved include the Louvre and the Pompidou Center, the group said. In one instance, a looted impressionist painting by Maurice Utrillo was sent to Israel in 1954 for exhibit, the WJC said, basing its findings on a study of exhibition catalogues. *Reuters*

### Palestinian doctor gets human-rights award

Psychiatrist Eyad Sarraj, who has been jailed for speaking out against the Palestinian Authority, has won the Martin Ennals Award for Human-Rights Defenders. "He is active in the field of rehabilitation of torture survivors and prevention of torture," said Adama Dieng, president of the Martin Ennals Foundation. "His involvement in human-rights issues has exposed him on several occasions to threatening situations and resulted in his own imprisonment and torture. His open criticism of the Palestinian National Authority has placed him in great danger." Sarraj is the founder and director of the Gaza Community Mental Health Program. The Martin Ennals award was created in 1993 to commemorate the life-long human-rights campaigner who created several human-rights organizations. *AP*

### Credit card can be used to donate to Magen David

Israelis who want to help donate a new blood mobile to Magen David Adom can now do so easily by contributing points from their Diner's Club credit card. The Lion's Club - an international voluntary organization dedicated to public service - has launched a three-month campaign called "Points to Save Lives." More information can be obtained at 03-7652533. *Judy Siegel*

## Migraine headaches may lower risk of heart attack

By JUDY SIEGEL

People who suffer from migraine headaches appear to be at lower risk than average for a heart attack. Dr. Arve Kuritzky of the headache clinic at Petah Tikva's Rabin Medical Center-Beilinson Campus is launching a study to test this observation. He noted that a quarter of all women and 12 percent of men suffer a migraine attack at some time in their lives. While the headaches are bad enough, the other symptoms - nausea, vomiting, chills, and sensitivity to light and noise - can be worse. In a preliminary survey carried out with Dr. Rami Paz of the cardiology institute, Kuritzky found that only 6% of people who have had a heart attack have had a migraine attack. "It's known that migraine patients have more contraction of

the coronary arteries. Studies conducted at Beilinson have shown migraine sufferers have changes in their heartbeat. In addition, those who don't get migraine headaches complained more about chest pains than migraine sufferers. This may be due to increased contraction of coronary arteries," he suggested. These contractions may protect them from heart disease, he added. "These contractions cause mild problems in the supply of oxygen, forcing the heart to develop compensatory measures that protect the heart when posed with a more serious deprivation of blood," he theorized. Men over the age of 50 who suffer from migraines are invited to participate in research involving questionnaires. Suitable candidates should call (03)-937-6353 or (03)-937-6358 on weekdays between 8 a.m. and 3 p.m.



**A winning smile**  
Israel's Limor Abargil waves to the crowd yesterday shortly after being announced the winner of the 1998 Miss World pageant in Seychelles. *(AP)*

## Mordechai to visit Greece next month

By ARIEH O'SULLIVAN

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai is to travel to Greece on December 19 in response to an invitation from his Greek counterpart, Akis Tsochadzopoulos. Officially, Mordechai will be hosted by the Jewish community of Saloniki, but he will also be meeting with top Greek officials in Athens during his three-day visit, defense sources said yesterday.

Greece, which has heavily criticized the growing military alliance between Israel and Turkey, announced in September that it had invited Mordechai to Athens.

Defense officials were not too enthusiastic about the invitation, but came under heavy pressure from the Foreign Ministry to politely oblige. The visit finally jelled following the Mossad fiasco in Greek Cyprus when Israel became interested in preventing further tensions.

Tsochadzopoulos said at the time that he would discuss with Mordechai the implementation of a military pact signed between Greece and Israel in 1994, but never carried out.

The pact, similar to the one signed with Turkey, calls for joint naval exercises and rescue operations as well as joint air maneuvers.

In an interview with the Athens News Agency (ANA) this week, Mordechai said Israel is interested in forging defense cooperation. Mordechai said that Greece had turned down an Israeli invitation to participate in joint naval maneuvers held with Turkey and the US last January.

"We all decided to hold maneuvers together in the Mediterranean Sea, but you decided not to take part in it," he was quoted as saying in the interview.

Mordechai also offered to mediate between Athens and Ankara, the report said. "I reckon that if we can help find a solution to the conflict that we will be happy to do so," he said.

Greece has earmarked an estimated \$24 billion over the next five years for new fighter jets, missiles, ships, tanks and other weapons.

Israeli defense industries have expressed interest in helping Greece upgrade its forces.

## Shas disputes linking wiretap to Yishai-Deri rivalry

By HERB KENNON

As police searched for those responsible for bugging the home of Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai, Shas activists continued to deny yesterday that the eavesdropping was due to a rift between Yishai and Shas strongman Aryeh Deri. In addition to intra-party squabbles, police are also exploring whether the bugs could have been the result of an over-eager Labor and Social Affairs Ministry subcontractor, or the work of a rival party.

Nevertheless, the Deri angle is the most intriguing, especially since the Deri-Yishai rivalry has overshadowed the last big internal Shas matchup of a few years ago, Deri vs. Shlomo Benizri. Deri easily won that contest, but the competition with Yishai may be more difficult. Yishai, like Deri, is close to Shas mentor Rabbi Ovadiah Yosef.

Eli Yishai, 33, emerged as if from nowhere in the last elections. Shas's new whiz kid leaptfrogged over those older and more experienced in the party and landed securely in a ministerial chair.

It was Deri, somewhat paradoxically, who pushed Yishai's political career, plucking him from the office of Shas Jerusalem city councilor Nissim Ze'ev and appointing him as an aide on municipal affairs when Deri was interior minister.

From there Yishai went on to become the director-general of Shas's educational system, El Ha'mayan, and then director-general of the party.

Ze'ev, incidentally, also said that his phone was recently tapped.

Yishai ran fifth on Shas's Knesset list the last time around, and was decidedly not one of Deri's choices to serve as minister.

Yet Yishai, who is close to Yehudit Yosef - the rabbi's daughter-in-law who he worked with at El Ha'mayan and who now serves as his bureau chief - caught the rabbi's eye.

He was appointed minister at the age of 32, making him by far the youngest member of Netanyahu's cabinet.

By comparison, Deri, now 39, was 29 when he became Interior Minister.

Tensions between Deri and Yosef reportedly grew as rumors spread that Yosef was considering replacing Deri with Yishai as party head, because of the former's many legal problems. The problem was exacerbated about 10 months ago when a Friday magazine story in *Yediot Aharonot* suggested that Yishai was trying to wrest the party leadership from Deri.

Soon after, posters appeared in Jerusalem's Har Nof neighborhood where both men live, that read, "Dear Eli, don't forget that it is forbidden to betray the per-



Eli Yishai (Rivka Finkler)



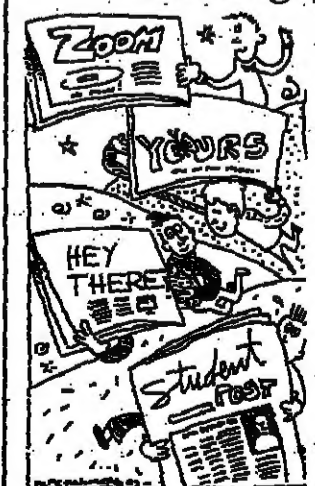
Aryeh Deri (Gunn Harari)

son who raised you. Aryeh's shoes are too big for you. Forget about it."

Both Deri and Yishai have consistently denied there is any tension between them.

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## Lords a'leaping

How does a life-long Silver Stick in Waiting pad his resume when he sets out to find a new job?

Those Brits. You have to wonder, sometimes. Here we

### Column One



Thomas O'Dwyer

are on the brink of the 21st century and here are they, in Labor-ruled Cool Britannia, huffing and puffing about whether it is absolutely necessary to wear silk slippers, powdered wigs or silver buckles in parliament. Meanwhile, these grumpy old codgers in the House of Lords (upper house) can filibuster legislation from the elected lower house by right of inherited titles.

A hardy perennial is this British national debate "House of Lords - who needs it?" which airs at the annual state opening of parliament. Because of pomp and ceremony, British government policies, as enunciated in the arcane "Queen's speech" in the Lords, gets an airing on national and foreign media like no other government does for such a mundane occasion.

The British people were assured that this year's event would be stripped of some of the more obscure medieval encrustations.

### Crony jewels

You could never tell by looking at it. Sure, as well as Silver Stick in Waiting a few other dumped courtiers will be job-hunting. We hope that the Maltravers Herald Extraordinary and the Portcullis Pursuivant have set up web sites to market their skills. It's a steady-cold high-tech world out here, guys.

The debate between tradition and Tony Blair's pursuit of ultra-modernity is being played out with great acrimony, but mainly in the House of Commons and in the letters pages of establishment newspapers. ("Sir - Poppycock I say! Cancel my subscription immediately. Yours, disgusted, House of Lords.")

Real people have more important things to worry about, and obviously are more attuned to Blair's job program than to employment opportunities for downsized Crown Equeries.

Blair is pledged to end "the feudal domination" by 750 hereditary peers of the House of Lords by removing their right to vote on legislation which the Commons sends to the upper house for review. The unelected Lords cannot block government legislation, but they can amend it to death. The hereditary peerage also has installed a pro-Conservative bloc in the Lords for all eternity - a House of Cronies, as Blair called it.

### Lord Vague of Hague

The Commons Conservatives, who themselves failed many times to modernize the stodgy upper house, are infuriated.

Their leader William Hague (King William the Vague) has been busy hurling insults across the floor at Blair.

"Nero of Sedgfield," he fumed, "fiddling with the constitution while jobs burn."

He suggested Blair should remove himself to the Lords with the title "Baron of Ideas." Now that was clever, and drew a laugh from good-natured Labor members.

But Mr. Vague, never knowing when to quit while ahead, rambled on to list other satirical Labor Lord titles (too "in" to repeat here) until he finally put his foot in a doggy-doo.

He suggested a "Lord Mandelson of Rio." Peter Mandelson, Blair's spinmaster who crafted Labor's brilliant

election public-relations campaign, is discreetly gay.

Punch magazine, uttered some rumors of wild partying by Mandelson on a trip to Rio, but Mandelson simply said "not true," and even scurrilous British tabloids didn't touch the story.

Hague's sly dig at Mandelson's private sex-life has landed him flat on his political back. "In the gutter," as opponents put it.

This week's letter-writing campaign on Lords reform has been impressive on both sides of the tradition-modernity divide, but British letter-writers to quality newspapers always have been a cut above the rest of the breed.

There was some indignant excess however: "Sir - It is truly frightening to watch unsavory politicians such as Mr. Clinton and Mr. Blair compromise the sovereignty of the free people they purport to represent."

### Yanks go home

But leave it to someone "representing a group of Americans working for a large installation in Britain" to go all mean and nasty.

"Sir - We Americans have to do business with Brits every day. Here it is: we don't like Brits. Once a mighty imperialist power, racist, class-ridden and bigoted to the core, Britain has been reduced to its essence - a 'Duchy of Grand Fenwick,' a little half-assed monarchy whose leaders parade around in wigs and medieval costumes... grown men and women, whose only significant claim to authority is an inherited gene for alcoholism that can be traced back 1,000 years, assume they are somehow better than everyone else..."

I say, steady on old chap - Mom frightened by an ermine during pregnancy, perhaps?

Then, when everyone had their fill of fun at Shakespeare's "old periwig-pated fellows," suddenly they reappeared in the somber grandeur of that other House of Lords role - Britain's supreme court.

The five Law Lords, in a simple, stunning and far-reaching decision, overturned a British High Court verdict and declared that crimes against humanity are not protected by sovereign immunity because "they are not functional acts of a head of state."

So, the brutal Gen. Augusto Pinochet must face his accusers, and other dictators must tremble.

Those Brits. Sometimes you just have to admire them.

# Japan, China fail to heal old wounds

By BRIAN WILLIAMS

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan and China failed yesterday to close the book on their bitter World War Two past.

That failure, coupled with differences over their views on Taiwan, weakened a joint declaration meant to celebrate the first visit to Japan by a Chinese head of state.

The declaration, which Chinese President Jiang Zemin and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi did not even sign, was issued six hours later than scheduled because of intense wrangling about wording on the two key issues.

In the end, Japan expressed only "deep remorse," rather than the written war apology sought by China and it stood firm against Beijing's demand for a clearer statement that Japan would not support Taiwan independence.

"Painfully feeling its responsibility for inflicting grave suffering and damage on the people of China by invading China at one period of history, the Japanese side expressed deep remorse for this," the declaration said.

On Taiwan, it said: "Japan will continue to adhere to its position stated in the (1972) Japan-China joint statement on Taiwan and its recognition again that there is one China."

Ahead of Jiang's arrival, China demanded an unequivocal apology for the war and a "no compromise" statement about Taiwan.

The two issues were seen as central to the success of Jiang's visit, which started on Wednesday and ends Monday.

"Both sides were not ready to resolve the history issue... to leave it behind and to see only the future," a senior Japanese Foreign Ministry official said.

China did get an apology but only verbally during the summit talks when Obuchi simply recalled the 1995 groundbreaking statement on the issue by then Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, left, and Japanese Emperor Akihito wave to school children during a welcoming ceremony at the Akasaka Palace state guest house in Tokyo yesterday.

"I express once more my heartfelt feelings of deep remorse and state my heartfelt apology," Murayama had said.

"The Japanese government would like to repeat this remorse and apologize to China," Obuchi said in the talks.

On Taiwan, Obuchi told Jiang: "There is no change in our policy on Taiwan that Japan will not support Taiwan's independence."

A Chinese official briefing reporters signalled there was unhappiness about Japan's commitment to a one-China policy.

"We have to say there remains a mistaken view among some Japanese on Taiwan. We sincerely hope Japan will sufficiently respect the Chinese position on Taiwan," the official said.

Since his arrival, Jiang has constantly stated that Japan-China relations can only go forward if Tokyo has a "correct" historical view of relations.

"The issues of history and Taiwan are the basis of Sino-Japanese relations, and we cannot keep out of these issues," Jiang told Obuchi.

The first hint the summit was in trouble came earlier yesterday when authorities revealed that it had been decided the two leaders would not sign their joint declaration.

In a bid to put the best face on the issue, officials said there was "no clear-cut criterion on whether to sign a political document such as a Japan-China joint declaration" even though Jiang's official itinerary mentioned a ceremony.

Japanese government spokesman

Hiroshi Nomaoka, in another effort at damage control, said the two leaders never planned to sign the declaration.

The result of not signing the declaration is it now becomes a less weighty political document, rather than a legal one.

Similar 1972 and 1978 communiques which are the basis of Japan-China relations, were signed and were legal documents.

China's Foreign Ministry also tried to play down the setback.

"The key is not the signing, it is how to implement the letter and spirit of the document," Foreign Ministry spokesman Tang Guoqiang said in Beijing.

There was some progress in the summit.

The declaration said China and

Japan agreed to set up a "hot line" between their leaders so flareups in relations could be quickly settled.

Japan and China also agreed to enhance cooperation in 32 areas from the economy to the environment.

Projects included major train and infrastructure developments.

Japan also agreed to extend up to 390 billion yen (\$3.19 billion) in loans to China over two years.

The yen-denominated loans will be extended between 1999 and 2000 to finance projects dealing with such issues as environmental problems and improving farm productivity.

However even on the loans, negotiations were difficult as Japan wanted to curtail them because of its recession while China wanted a larger amount.

## Blair to Dail: Push for peace

By GERRARD RAVEN

DUBLIN (Reuters) - Prime Minister Tony Blair said yesterday that Northern Ireland faced two roadblocks on the route to permanent peace and asked the Irish Republic to put aside past enmities with Britain in a drive to overcome them.

In a speech to the Irish parliament, which was itself symbolic of a vast improvement in ties between London and Dublin, Blair said: "The peace process is at a difficult juncture. Progress is being made, but slowly."

The speech was the first by a British prime minister to the Irish Dail and Senate, the two parliamentary houses, since the creation of the Irish Free State in 1922 split Ireland in two, with six northern, mainly Protestant, counties staying British.

Blair had spent Wednesday in Belfast talking to the leaders of the main Northern Ireland parties.

He had little progress to report in resolving a stand-off in which unionists insist the Irish Republican Army must start to disarm before they sit in a new governing executive, due to start operating in February, with representatives of its political wing, Sinn Fein.

"There is an impasse over the establishment of the executive; there is an impasse over decommissioning," he said.

"But I have been optimistic all

the way through, and I am optimistic now. Let us not underestimate how far we have come, and let us agree that we have come too far to come back now."

Later, after a working lunch with Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern, Blair hinted he was hopeful that a further issue, the question of setting up bodies covering the whole of Ireland to discuss issues such as tourism, might see progress soon.

"It is important now that we crack on with this... that we measure progress in days rather than weeks and months," he said.

Ahern agreed that there was movement on this issue. "We certainly are making progress, and I think we made more progress today," he said.

Blair and Ahern played key roles in drawing up a blueprint for the future of Northern Ireland agreed by most of its political parties on Good Friday.

Under the accord, a new assembly controlling the executive will administer internal affairs and some cross-border bodies will be established in areas where cooperation throughout the island of Ireland makes economic or cultural sense.

Within two years, the IRA and other guerrilla organizations must give up their weapons.

Blair said a closer relationship between Britain and Ireland would help pro-British Protestants and Catholics striving for a united Ireland to live more easily with each other in the North.

## Spanish judge readies Pinochet indictment

By DEBORAH CHARLES

MADRID (Reuters) - The Spanish judge who first requested the extradition of Chile's Augusto Pinochet is working on a formal indictment of the ex-dictator on charges of genocide, court sources said yesterday.

Baltasar Garzon, the High Court judge who created an international uproar when he ordered Pinochet's arrest in London last month, was expected to indict the 83-year-old general shortly, they said.

He had been waiting for the British Law Lords' decision on whether Pinochet was immune from prosecution before issuing the indictment.

The lords, acting as Britain's highest court, on Wednesday overturned a High Court decision and said Pinochet did not have diplomatic immunity.

Britain's interior minister, Home

Secretary Jack Straw, must now decide whether to allow the extradition proceedings to go ahead. The deadline was set for December 2 but on Thursday Straw requested an extra week to consider the Spanish demands.

If he agrees to allow extradition hearings to go ahead, court proceedings will begin but if he refuses, Pinochet will be free to leave Britain. He has been held under guard in hospital where he has been recovering from back surgery since October 16.

Garzon, who has been conducting a two-year investigation of atrocities committed in Latin America's "dirty wars" in the 1970s and 1980s, was also still awaiting a response from British authorities to his request to question Pinochet.

If it appears that Pinochet will not be extradited to Spain, the judge was expected to push for the right to

question the general before he leaves London, the court sources said.

Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who government sources say secretly hopes Britain will block Pinochet's extradition to Madrid, on Thursday supported the creation of an international court that could try cases like this one.

"I am in favor of an international court which would try certain crimes against human rights, crimes against humanity," Aznar told reporters.

"Nobody thinks that one country should become an international court... so what is logical is to create an international court."

Aznar has publicly insisted on letting justice run its course, but a government adviser said he would be "overjoyed" to find an easy exit from what has become an embarrassing political dilemma.

## Turkish PM Yilmaz sees shift in Europe over wanted Kurd

By HIDI GOKTAS

ANKARA (Reuters) - Turkish caretaker Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz said yesterday he had detected a shift in Europe's opposition to Turkey's efforts to bring Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan to justice.

Turkey's determination to bring its most wanted man to trial in Turkey from Italy has sparked a row with Rome that has alarmed the United States and threatened Turkey's ties with the European Union.

Italy has rejected a Turkish arrest warrant for the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) leader, sparking a Turkish boycott of Italian goods that the EU warns violates international trade agreements.

But Yilmaz saw signs of change. "I am pleased to see the Italian government very slowly turning away from the mistaken position it took up at the beginning. Germany is also showing clear signs of flexibility," Yilmaz told reporters in Ankara.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said Ocalan should not be granted political asylum in Italy and Germany should seek his extradition or risk compromising international efforts against terrorism.

Germany, fearful of importing Turkey's rebel conflict, has refused to commit itself to seeking Ocalan's trial for allegedly inciting his followers to commit murder in Germany. Kurdish leaders in Germany have warned of clashes between Turks and Kurds there if Bonn claims Ocalan.

Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he would spell out Germany's position in talks with Italian Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema today.

Turkey has softened demands that Ocalan come to Turkey, conceding that trial in a third country is the most feasible option.

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Family and friends will meet for the unveiling  
at Beit Hahepsed, Givat Shaul, at 3:45 p.m.

**The Family**

Bnai Zion mourns the passing of  
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A true woman of valor,  
beloved friend and co-worker.

Our tragic loss will be felt by all.

We express our condolences to the entire family.

Alan G. Havesi, President  
Mel Parness, Executive Vice President

Mayor of Ma'ale Adumim, Benny Kashriel,  
and the Executive Council  
extend their sincere condolences and deep sorrow  
to the Maayani Family and the  
Bnai Zion Organization of New York,  
on the untimely death of a great friend

**EDNA MAAYANI**  
Deputy Executive Director of Bnai Zion  
She will be sorely missed by all.

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**Ov...**  
By DEEPAK SH...

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**Tensions**

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# Over 100 killed in India train crash

By DEEPAK SHARMA

KHANNA, India (AP) — A gatekeeper alerted the nearest railroad station that the Frontier Mail had derailed and was sprawling across the tracks of an oncoming express. But it was too late.

The Scindia Express had by then sped past the station and couldn't see the derailed coaches through the darkness and mist before dawn yesterday. The crash in northwestern India killed at least 108 people and injured 250 others, police and railroad officials said.

Rescuers were searching debris for another 35 missing passengers who were presumed dead, the police control room said.

Most of the victims were asleep. A horrendous sound of crunching metal awoke villagers, and word quickly spread to the wheat wholesale market town of Khanna.

Farmers turned headlights of cars or tractors on the wreckage. Others offered tea, bread or blankets and sweaters since many passengers were dressed in night clothes or had lost their belongings, said Shiv Kumar, a businessman who joined the rescue efforts.

Four rear cars of the Amritsar-bound Frontier Mail from New Delhi jumped the tracks as their links snapped between the towns



Rescue workers search for train-crash survivors in Khanna, northern India yesterday.

of Khanna and Payal in Punjab state. In less than a minute, the Calcutta-bound Scindia Express coming from Jammu on a parallel track collided with the derailed cars, said Ashok Kumar, a top official of the government-owned railroad company.

The engine and four cars of the

express train were crumpled like balls of paper in the impact.

Rescue workers cut the cars with acetylene torches to extricate 97 bodies, said Punjab state police chief Pooran Chand Dogra. Among the dead were 40 army soldiers going home to Calcutta.

Dogra said more bodies were still lying in the cars.

The engine of the express train was buried under dirt. Two of its mangled cars were perched on the wreckage of three Front Mail coaches.

Hours after the accident, many people were still trapped inside

the cars. "They are shrieking. Some are saying, 'Cut off my legs. Cut off my hands. Just rescue me.' I saw one woman who is still trapped inside. Her legs are dangling from the compartment, but they are not able to rescue her because the compartment is at the bottom," Ashok Kumar said.

## Russia: Iran nuclear reactor ready by 2003

MOSCOW (Reuters) — Russia yesterday outlined more details of its controversial project to build an atomic reactor in Iran and reiterated that the plan, criticized by the United States and Israel, posed no threat to Middle Eastern security.

The United States and Israel fear that the 1,000-megawatt light-water reactor being built at Bushehr on the Gulf coast will help Iran to develop nuclear weapons.

In a statement issued after a visit to Tehran by Atomic Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov, the Russian Foreign Ministry said the first bloc of the reactor would be completed in May 2003.

It said about 900 people were currently employed at the site, including 314 Russian specialists and workers.

This week Adamov visited the site and also agreed to consider an Iranian proposal that Moscow help build three more nuclear reactors at Bushehr, it said.

Russia's energy ministry said on Wednesday the additional reactors would cost between \$3

and \$4.5 billion, which it said was cheaper than similar Western models.

"During the minister's visit, the Iranian leadership constantly stressed that it had no desire to acquire nuclear weapons," the Foreign Ministry statement said.

"Russo-Iranian cooperation in the nuclear field has an entirely peaceful character and is beneficial to both sides. It fully complies with all Russia's international obligations, above all in the field of nuclear non-proliferation." Iran has always denied it is seeking nuclear weapons, saying its atomic programme is "civilian and open to international inspection."

Adamov said on Wednesday that used nuclear fuel would be sent back to Russia for re-processing before being returned to Iran for further use in the Bushehr plant.

German firms began work on the Bushehr project in 1974. Work was later halted and the plant was damaged in the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war. Adamov says work is going full steam ahead again after long delays.

## House panel draws up Clinton impeachment charges — report

NEW YORK (Reuters) — Senior staff of the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee Chairman Representative Henry Hyde are drawing up articles of impeachment against President Bill Clinton on three counts, the New York Times reported yesterday.

Quoting a senior Republican official of the committee, the Times said that drafting was in its "very early stages" and would have to be approved by the committee's 21 Republican members.

The official said the articles under discussion would allege perjury, obstruction of justice, and, on the basis of the president's repeated assertion of legal privileges, abuse of power.

Hyde, an Illinois Republican, was overseeing the work, the paper said, which is being done by majority investigative counsel David Schippers and Thomas E. Mooney, Sr., the committee's chief of staff.

The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the articles were being drafted using the report of independent counsel Kenneth Starr, which focused on Clinton's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky. They are based on the Watergate articles of impeachment that led to former President Richard Nixon's resignation from office, and on impeachment cases against three federal judges.

Although many lawmakers have

been quoted as saying they believe a motion of censure rather than articles of impeachment would gain more votes in the House, the Republicans said the committee majority is following its own course and that there has been little if any coordination with the party leadership.

The committee is moving steadily along the path toward recommending impeachment, even though moderate Republicans and some aides believe a floor vote on even a single count of perjury would be too close to call.

One senior House Republican aide told the paper that any article beyond perjury would be "doomed."

## Iraq accepts oil-for-food extension

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — An Iraqi official said yesterday Baghdad had no choice but to agree to a new phase of its oil-for-food deal with the United Nations if its sanctions-hit people were to stay alive.

"Our people are in dire need. We have to accept it," the official said of the six-month renewal of the program. But the official, who asked not to be named, said Iraq still objected to the idea that "this temporary arrangement just to keep people surviving might become a permanent one."

Iraq has frequently objected to the entire program, saying it is a poor substitute for the lifting of sanctions.

The health ministry said in a statement that sanctions had resulted in the deaths of nearly 8,000 children and elderly people in October, bringing the total deaths in those two groups to more than one million since sanctions were imposed.

Sanctions have devastated Iraq, whose 22 million people have had to cope with shortages of food and medicine, as well as collapsing health, water, sanitation and sewage services.

## Tensions high in Jakarta

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Civil unrest rocked parts of strife-torn Indonesia yesterday as rumors swept the capital that simmering tensions could explode into new violence today.

Small-scale riots rooted in deepening poverty hit the Sumatran city of Medan while troops took over the commodities center of Pinrang a day after thousands went on the rampage there over the local government's handling of a scam involving cooperatives.

Students demanding democratic reform, the ousting of deeply unpopular President B.J. Habibie and the trial of his autocratic predecessor and mentor, Suharto, took to the streets of Jakarta, the second city of Surabaya and the city of Jambi yesterday.

In Jambi, students damaged a police post and stoned a hotel believed to house a gambling den, but there were no injuries.

There were no reports of violence at the protests involving hundreds of students in central Jakarta and Surabaya, both on the main island of Java.

But at least 54 students and one soldier were injured in clashes on Wednesday in the central Java capital, Semarang.

Jakarta was tense on the eve of

today's Moslem prayer day, with rumors that strife could erupt after the midday prayers.

"It is so uncontrollable," said a non-Moslem Javanese.

Tensions are high all around Indonesia, fuelled by political, ethnic, religious and economic frictions.

The strife in Pinrang, on Sulawesi island, and Semarang is among the worst in a rash of violence that has hit Indonesia in recent weeks as it struggles under the weight of economic and political crisis.

About 30 people have died in civil unrest this month, most of them in the battle-scarred capital. Pinrang was under tight military guard yesterday to prevent another flare-up.

## WORLD in brief

### Ex-Zimbabwe president guilty of sex charges

HARARE (AP) — Former President Robert Mugabe was convicted yesterday of 11 counts of sodomy and homosexual assault, and prosecutors confirmed he had fled the country.

Banana, a Methodist minister, was requesting political asylum in neighboring Botswana after leaving the country November 17 ahead of the verdict, said Chief Prosecutor Augustine Chikumira. He said the government will seek Banana's extradition.

The guilty verdict on all counts came after a three-week trial in June. Banana faces an estimated maximum sentence of 22 years in prison at sentencing December 10.

The case has deeply embarrassed President Robert Mugabe, who insists homosexuality is foreign to African culture and was brought to the continent from the West.

### Tokyo court nixes POWs compensation suit

TOKYO (AP) — A Tokyo court yesterday rejected a demand for compensation by a group of Allied soldiers and civilians held prisoner by Japanese troops during World War II.

The lawsuit was filed in January 1995 by seven plaintiffs on behalf of 20,000 members of veteran and civilian ex-prisoner organizations from Britain, the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

The decision was the first handed down in Japan in a legal suit brought by former World War II POWs from Allied countries.

### Ex-Nazi charged in deaths of 17,000

STUTTGART (AP) — State prosecutors yesterday charged a 79-year-old former Nazi soldier as an accessory in the deaths of 17,000 people, mostly Jews, in November 1943 at the Majdanek concentration camp.

The Ukrainian-born suspect, arrested at his home in Stuttgart in March, is accused of participating in the systematic killings, dubbed Operation Harvest Festival, while he was a Nazi officer and Gestapo agent based in Lemberg, present-day Ukraine.

Prosecutors did not identify the man in a statement announcing the charges. However, German security sources previously identified the man as Alfons Goetzfried.

At the time of his arrest, prosecutors said the suspect had admitted to having personally shot 500 adults and children. He is accused of helping load weapons for the other killings, a prosecutor's said.

Despite his alleged direct role in hundreds of deaths, he was charged as an accessory because he did not have a command position, the statement said.

### Polish parliament approves key coal reform

WARSAW (Reuters) — Polish legislators yesterday approved a scheme to overhaul the loss-making and overmanned coal mining sector, a reform crucial for the country's future economic growth and its efforts to join the European Union.

The bill, pushed through the lower house of parliament by the ruling center-right coalition, allows the government to spend about 14 billion zlotys (\$4b.) over five years to bail out mines and grant benefits to 100,000 miners seen losing their jobs.

"Without the reform this debt would have mounted to more than 30 billion zlotys in five years and most mines would have collapsed," said deputy economy minister Jan Szlask, who is in charge of the coal-mining reform.

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## Political cynicism

The Netanyahu government has, since its inception, turned its own political survival into a form of national entertainment, in which crisis after crisis has seemed to threaten its imminent demise. Even the widely-supported Wye agreement has only shifted the balancing point upon which the political seesaw rests: the government is now mainly threatened from the Right rather than from both the Right and the Left. Having acted faithfully to fulfill its election mandate, the Netanyahu government deserves a chance to govern. If it cannot, however, the proper alternative is to return to the polls, rather than the democratically dubious exercise of forming a unity government.

Unity governments are credited with three major accomplishments: the preemptive strike that transformed peril into the victory of the Six Day War, the withdrawal from Lebanon in 1984-85, and the vanquishing of hyperinflation with a bold economic stabilization plan in 1985. The peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan, as well as the Oslo Accords, were not accomplished by unity governments, although a final-status deal with the Palestinians might best be negotiated by such an administration. But the popular image of a unity government as a cure for partisan bickering and a catalyst for bold action is, unfortunately, exaggerated.

More typical of unity governments is the intrigue that culminated in the infamous "sinking maneuver" that broke up the government of Yitzhak Shamir and Shimon Peres in 1990. Unity governments do not eliminate opposition; they include the opposition within the government. The result is often paralysis and an ability to move forward only on whatever narrow grounds constitute a common denominator between the major parties.

After the Wye accord, the grounds for agreement between the major parties has certainly widened. But it is not clear that such agreement is more effectively implemented by a two-(or three)-headed monster, whose heads each keep an eye cocked toward competing against each other in the next election. Even governments composed of like-minded parties are often beset by ministers with their own agendas; all the more so when half the cabinet knows from the beginning it will meet the other half in good time at the ballot box.

One prime example of such competition among allies is the saga of David Levy and the Likud. The fluidity - and cynicism - of politics is amply exhibited by the expected return of

Levy's truncated Geshet party to the Likud fold. The man who has turned taking insult and brimmanship into a high art has evidently done it again, wrangling a prime cabinet spot, untold millions in social spending, and hundreds of coveted spots in the Likud central committee - all for a "movement" which seemed to be going nowhere.

Though it may be unfair to accuse Levy of "laziness" for reportedly refusing the Finance portfolio, the actual explanation for his refusal is likely worse - as finance minister he would have to confront the irresponsibility of his own economic agenda, or take responsibility for the results. Levy, evidently, would rather be seen as storming the budgetary ramparts than defending the budget from whomever picks up the flag of unrestrained social spending, regardless of the harm it does to the sectors it is supposed to help.

If the cynicism of Levy's reported refusal of the top budgetary post has worthy competition, it is from Netanyahu's offering him the job in the first place. It would be difficult to name anyone in the political sphere whose ideology is more antithetical to Netanyahu's professed free-market, government-downsizing, privatization agenda than David Levy.

Bringing Levy to Finance might be seen as the budgetary equivalent of naming Ariel Sharon as foreign minister - who better to sell a peace agreement than Sharon or to sell a budget than Levy. But Levy has never exhibited the pragmatic streak in economics that Sharon has in foreign affairs, nor is there a basic commonality of world views around which to build. Chances are that putting Levy in charge of the Finance Ministry would spell the end of Netanyahu's economic agenda before it had even properly left the ground.

The prospect of Levy at Finance is ample illustration that there are prices that are too high to pay to save a government. Netanyahu does not have the right to sacrifice the nation's economic future to bolster his coalition.

The government's movement to the center on the diplomatic front opened the way for Levy to return. This is obviously important as the government negotiates the dual challenges of implementing the Wye agreement and passing a restrained budget. But such broadening should not be at the expense of abandoning either the diplomatic or economic components of the government's original electoral mandate. If saving the government renders the voters' mandate unrecognizable, the democratic solution is new elections.

MEIR RONEN © 98



## The chaos in Moscow

MOSHE ZAK

A intermediary from the Russian space agency, on a visit to Israel, offered the Israeli space agency the space station Mir, soon to complete its mission, for experiments and training at a knockdown price.

Our space agency has connections with Russia's, and in 1995 a scientific experiment, using three telescopes on Mir, was planned. However, the Russians have postponed it from year to year, and it has finally been fixed for 2000, unless the head of the Russian agency, who will be visiting in February, decides to move it forward. In spite of these good relations, we rejected the offer to buy the space station, after experts concluded that it is on the point of collapse.

We know how to keep our distance from a disintegrating Russian space station, but we are helpless in the face of the disintegrating Yeltsin regime in Moscow, even when its collapse is liable to endanger our essential interests. Chaos in a country with massive nuclear resources is dangerous to the world and to us.

Russia has close military links with Syria and nuclear links with Iran, which is developing long-range missiles. The US and Israel have been conducting a dialogue with Russia in recent years on the need to restrain Iran's nuclear and ballistic development. The Russian government apologized and claimed that the Russian experts working in Iran aren't employed on behalf of the government.

In talks with the US, held in parallel to negotiations on an increase of American economic aid, the

Russians hinted that they would reduce the pace of construction at the nuclear reactor in Bushehr. But this week Russian Energy Minister Yevgeny Adamov signed an agreement to increase the pace of construction.

Iran is involved in a mad race to gain weapons of mass destruction, and Russia, given the changes in its leadership, can't supervise the use made of the nuclear capability that it is giving Tehran.

When Yevgeny Primakov was appointed as Russia's foreign minister, he came to Jerusalem and tried to persuade Israel to let

prime minister, and in effect president, since Yeltsin is ill and spends long periods in the hospital. He may now rely on Western fears that Yeltsin's regime is on the point of collapse, and should not be pushed too hard. This increases Moscow's recklessness, and allows it to provide knowhow in producing long-range missile and nuclear technology. Israel is liable to pay the price one day.

THE RATIFICATION of the Start 2 treaty, signed by Yeltsin and president George Bush and intended to limit the number of

### The disintegration of Yeltsin's regime provides fertilizer for a resurgence of antisemitism and endangers not only Russia's Jews but also Israel's security

Moscow participate in the peace process. When he failed, he went to Tehran and signed a series of agreements for military aid and the agreement to build a nuclear reactor. At the time, Russia was still partly under control and hoped to receive large-scale financial aid from Washington, so the Americans could pressure President Boris Yeltsin not to start a nuclear and ballistic arms race in the region.

Primakov was forced to apologize and tell both Israel and America that Russia was not giving the Iranians everything, and had inhibitions about certain kinds of weapons. Today, Primakov is

nuclear warheads to 3500+ on each side, has been held up in the Russian parliament for the last five years. The Duma is controlled by the Communists and their extreme nationalist allies, and the political and economic crises now rocking Russia have cast doubt on its ability to reach a decision to endorse the treaty with the US on limiting arms.

The chaos prevailing in the Russian establishment opens the door to the rule of the submachine gun. This was seen in last week's assassination of Galina Starobitova, a democratic member of parliament, who was shot in

the doorway of her house in St. Petersburg.

This murder is the tip of the iceberg of the political storm now raging in Russia. In the distant past, the regime was responsible for a reign of terror, but today's terror is aimed at the regime, at effecting political change, and organized crime. Some Communists joined ranks to achieve that end.

It's true that Yeltsin announced that he would be personally supervising the investigation of Starobitova's murder, but on the same day he was hospitalized with pneumonia. The fact is that the whole regime is suffering from pneumonia, and Russian society is feverish from the economic and political crises infecting the country.

The interior minister hastened to announce that the speaker of the Duma was not involved in Starobitova's murder. But the facts contradict him: Starobitova had proposed a resolution calling for the removal of the immunity of General Albert Makashov, a Communist deputy who has called for the removal of Jews from positions of power in Russia. The speaker blocked the resolution and didn't condemn the Nazi-like expressions Makashov used about the Jews.

Makashov is not alone in incitement against the Jews, and most of the outstanding examples of antisemitism come from Communist politicians. This incitement is a source of danger for the Jews still in Russia. Even if the Communists gain power, the chaos currently spreading further their encouragement is dangerous to Russian Jews, dangerous to Israel, and dangerous to world peace.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### NOT A REAL ISRAELI

Sir, - In her op-ed "Cold Turkey" yesterday, Helen Scharly Motro laments the fact that Americans hang on to their holidays and customs, at the cost of true assimilation, one imposed by society and one by us, the immigrants.

The first is very simple. No immigrant I've met here ever had any illusions that he'd feel like an Israeli or that the Israelis would consider him one.

Just as immigrants to any other country always sit slightly outside their adopted society, so will we, no matter how many Israeli friends we make, no matter how much effort we expend to integrate ourselves. True assimilation must be left to our children, who will grow up here.

In addition, Motro raises the question of the religious aspects of American holidays. Those of us who ate a Thanksgiving dinner in

the US did so as an excuse to get together with family, not as a religious exercise, or as a political statement that might raise the question of dual loyalty.

The other barrier, put up by many of us intentionally, has to do with our distaste for certain values and attitudes that we encounter here. We don't want our children to learn and participate in the complete lack of civility that shoots through Israeli society. We want them to grow up understanding that one lives up to a contract, rather than simply ignoring one's obligations five minutes after the ink dries. We want our children to recognize that professionalism is everything: Our daughter's grade-school teacher has never once arrived in the classroom on time.

Herziya, TOVA ELBERG

### CHRISTIANS IN MEA SHE'ARIM

Sir, - The recent vandalism and attempt to burn down an apartment in Mea She'arim occupied by Christian girls has unleashed a campaign of vilification against the entire haredi population, a campaign in which the word "pogrom" has been freely - and inaccurately - bandied about.

The ruffians who wrecked the apartment deserve to be punished severely.

However, a few questions remain to be answered. Why did Christian girls decide to live in the very heart of a haredi area? Their action might be compared to that of religious Jewish girls choosing to reside in a devoutly Catholic village. The residents of Mea She'arim cannot be expected to feel completely comfortable with such an arrangement.

Moreover, one of the woman's protestations that they are not engaged in missionary work could be described as somewhat disingenuous. One of the basic tenets of Christianity is that the Jews must be "saved."

In the circumstances, for their own peace of mind and that of Mea She'arim residents, it might be advisable for them to move to another part of the city where they will be more welcome.

JUSTUS R. WEINER  
Scholar in Residence,  
Jerusalem Center for Public  
Affairs,  
Jerusalem.

NAOMI SCHENDOWICH  
Jerusalem.

### RESEARCH HELP

Sir, - I am currently researching an article for an academic journal. My article pertains to the end of the British Mandatory period in Jerusalem. In particular, would be most appreciative if any *Jerusalem Post* readers would contact me regarding the whereabouts of the following persons who attended St. George's Academy (or St. Mary's School) on Nahal Road during the period 1946-48. They would currently be 63 to 66 years old.

Aryeh Cohen; Moshe Djanov (taught physics); Mr. (first name unknown) Rosenzweig; Haik Boyadjian; Tommy Tomasian;

Moshe Djanov and Mr. (first name unknown) Ostrovsky. I am also interested in interviewing anyone who served in the Hagana who was involved in the fighting in Talbieh during the War of Independence.

I can be reached by telephone 02-561-9281, e-mail jweiner@write.com or fax 02-561-9112.

Jerusalem.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On November 27, 1933, *The Palestine Post* reported from London that the House of Commons had cheered the statement by the Secretary of State for the Colonies made to Mr. Janmer, that the surplus of the Palestine Government for the year ending

April 1, 1933, amounted to half a million pounds. Mr. Janmer suggested that the surplus was due largely to the energy of Jewish capital and labor.

25 years ago: On November 27, 1973, *The Jerusalem Post*

reported that leaders of 15 Arab states met in Algiers amid a flurry of conflicting statements on the Middle East war-and-peace strategy they were to plan after the October war with Israel.

Alexander Zvielli

## POSTSCRIPT

THEODORE SOLOMON'S dogtags survived five dive-bomber missions in World War II, a kamikaze attack and 52 years of postwar action in the precious care of their owner.

But now they're missing in action. Solomon, 76, of Long Island, took his dogtags to a jewelry store to have them gold-plated so he could wear them around his neck,

a popular trend among veterans. He treasured them so much, he planned to be buried with them.

But after 10 visits to the jeweler's, and 10 excuses as to why the tags weren't ready yet, an employee confessed that the tags were inexplicably lost.

George Hollock, owner of Benjamin's Jewelers, said he regrets the error, but doesn't understand all the fuss. "I really don't

know where they are, but I think I'll find them," he said. "It's an honest mistake. I can understand they have sentimental value, but sometimes in this business things happen."

Hollock said he even offered to do the gold-plating for \$20 instead of the normal \$40 when Solomon said he couldn't afford the higher price. Now he says he will plate the tags for free with 14-karat gold if they are found.

But for Solomon, the disappearance of the tags cannot just be forgotten. "Those dog tags meant plenty because they were always around my neck," Solomon said. "A dogtag represents you, your body. Without the dogtags, if you're blown up, they won't know it's you. With the tags, it's you. I feel bad I'll never see them again."

سكنا من الراحيل



## Taxing problems

STEVE KOHN, YITZHAK HEIMOWITZ

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman did well to back away from his baseless slur that immigrants are tax cheats. It would have been better had he never raised it in the first place. His second charge, that accountants and other tax professionals are "using" immigrants, is equally untrue. In fact, no issue has ever

dollars into the Israeli economy. Many have had successful careers, paying taxes every step of the way. All Israeli governments have encouraged this aliya.

Now the Treasury proposes a revolutionary change in the system - to tax all income worldwide. This would immediately hit the immigrants, who are already pay-

**The current tax reform bill could well be called 'the law to discourage aliya and encourage yerida'**

raised such widespread protest among immigrants as the misuse of the tax reform to target them. He should know this very well from the many hundreds of protest letters he has received. He would do better to address their just and sincere concerns, rather than take out his frustration; to generate light, not heat.

Here are the facts: Neeman is probably right that the basic intent of the proposed bill to amend the income tax ordinance was not to harm immigrants, but to tax the income of Israelis from their newly permitted foreign investments.

Unfortunately, the road to hell is paved with good intentions. The result of the bill, if not amended, would be to tax immigrants so unfairly and unjustly, that it could well be called "the law to discourage aliya and encourage yerida." News of the bill is already having a chilling effect on aliya and sending waves of apprehension throughout the immigrant community.

Since the state was established, only income earned in or received in Israel has been taxed here. Income from pensions, interest, dividends, retirement plans, or rents earned abroad and received abroad was not subject to Israeli tax. There could be no cheating, since there was no tax.

Generations of immigrants were able to support themselves with their own money, earned before they ever came here, totally unconnected with Israel. They bought apartments, cars and appliances and thus brought billions of

ing taxes on this income abroad, with disastrous additional taxes. For example, a couple with up to \$45,000 annual income in the US is in the 15 percent tax bracket. In Israel that same income is in the 45 percent bracket, plus national insurance.

Instead of recognizing this problem and trying to deal with it, the Treasury has been trying to "spin" it out of existence. It tries to make it sound as though an immigrant who pays taxes abroad will not have to pay any additional tax here. But it refuses to amend the bill to say so. It says foreign pensions will not be taxed, but the proposed law taxes them.

**THE TRUTH** is that even when Israel gives a 15% credit for the tax paid abroad, the immigrant will have to pay an additional 30% tax on the same income. Thus the total tax will be three times as high as the tax to the US alone.

The lower the income, the higher the difference. A senior citizen, legally blind widower with income of less than \$10,000 a year would pay US tax of \$4. He would have to pay an additional \$1,936 tax to Israel on this retirement income, for which he worked before coming to Israel.

The immigrant associations have pointed out these problems to the Finance Ministry, which instead of dealing with them has tried to pretend they don't exist. Therefore the immigrants are asking Knesset Finance Committee to amend the bill before allowing it to pass. They are also bombarding Neeman and



MARK STEINBERG

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with written protests, all in the best democratic tradition. They have not burned one tire, blocked one road, or fought with one policeman. This may be why the ministry is ignoring them.

The immigrants say that just as veteran Israelis will pay taxes on income from future investments, not past ones, this should also apply to them. If they make an investment abroad after the law goes into effect, they will pay tax on the income from it. But, it is unfair and unjust to apply a new tax to income from investments they made many years ago.

In the past, whenever there has been a major change in tax law, it has been accompanied by "interim regulations" to prevent taxpayers from being wiped out financially. For example, when the capital gains taxes on real estate were completely revamped, interim regulations were adopted limiting the tax on long-term landowners to 12%.

This kind of consideration is needed to ease the burden on immigrants due to the reform bill. It is not the immigrants, but the Treasury which is changing the rules in the midst of the law, and which must therefore protect the immigrants from infringement of their

existing rights.

The Treasury has so far refused to amend the proposed bill. It has told the immigrants: First we will pass the law as it is, then we will think about what we might do to mitigate the damage to you. The immigrants insist on having the protections written into the draft bill before it is enacted. The Treasury would do well to negotiate their just demands.

Steve Kohn is president of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, and Yitzhak Heimowitz chairs its legal committee.

## The pluralist Jewish renaissance

Finance Minister Yaakov Neeman's impolitic assertion that religious pluralism is no longer at the head of the Jewish agenda touched off a major storm during the recent General Assembly of UJA Federations of North America in Jerusalem. These comments were unnecessary and insensitive, particularly coming from the man who headed the commission charged with developing compromises on some of the major controversies, such as the conversion bill.

No Israeli should appear to tell Diaspora Jews what they should put at the top of their agenda, just as the Jewish leaders must exercise restraint in telling Israelis how to order their concerns.

However, if Neeman had said that religious pluralism is alive and well here, he would have been right and he could have invited his guests to sample the fruits for themselves.

In the Diaspora, the dominant image of Israeli religious practice is one of uniformity and enforced Orthodoxy, on one side, and strict anti-religious secularism on the other.

This image may have been true 20 years ago, but now it is increasingly false, as anyone who lives or spends time in Jerusalem knows. While some neighbor-

hoods of Jerusalem and Bnei Brak are monochromatic and dominated by haredim, the picture is quite different in other areas. Indeed, the range of Jewish practice in Israel today may be as broad as at any time in the past 2,000 years.

In Jerusalem, one can find congregations of haredim, modern Orthodox, minyanim (prayer groups) composed exclusively of women, mixed minyanim of men and women, Conservative and Reform synagogues, "Heder" groups (in which the emphasis is on singing through the services, in many cases inspired by the late Shlomo Carlebach), and others all within walking distance of each other. There are also Yemenite, Ashkenazi, and Sephardi minyanim of many different flavors.

Beit Shmuel, the Reform Movement's center in Jerusalem, and the Conservative Movement's main synagogue on Rehov Agnon offer wide programs in Jewish texts, history, and tradition to secular Israelis who only now realize how they and their parents were robbed of their tradition by a militant and intolerant secular leadership.

This religious pluralism, which is taking place largely within the framework of the rich Jewish tra-

dition and Halacha, is a reflection of a renaissance in Jewish learning, education, research, and theology. With millions of people flu-

**Zion is once again the fountain of Torah, and this activity is solid evidence of the Jewish spiritual rebirth that Zionists founders had sought and predicted**

ent in Hebrew, most of the texts are now open and understandable to everyone.

While centered in the cities, yeshivot, universities, kibbutzim, institutes, and, most importantly, informal study groups in Israel, this renaissance has spread to the Jewish centers of North America, Europe, and Australia. Zion is once again the fountain of Torah, and this activity is solid evidence of the Jewish spiritual rebirth that Zionists founders, such as Ahad

Ha'am, had sought and predicted.

IN ADDITION to study groups and conferences, there are also dozens of high-quality Internet sites where the interpretations of these new Jewish thinkers are circulated.

One only has to look around in synagogues in Denver, Boston, and Melbourne, Jerusalem, Rehovot, and Petah Tikva on Shabbat to see the tens of thousands of Jews who download and print these publications every week.

This process is entirely unregulated; anyone can put a commentary on the Web, and in the spirit of pluralism and the free marketplace of ideas, the best ones will be picked up and their impact will grow.

Another sign of the trend can be seen in the growth in the role of women in these activities. In addition to the mixed minyanim (some skirting the limits of the Orthodox tradition and others outside this framework), there are women's minyanim, study groups, and publications. Many of the women teachers and authors are among the best and the brightest of the Jewish renaissance.

It is true that all of this is taking place despite the intense opposition of the religious establishment,

including the Chief Rabbinate and the haredi political and religious leadership. These hierarchies and interest groups still control the formal institutions that register marriages and divorces, and they allocate public funding from the anachronistic Ministry of Religious Affairs.

They can and often do pose unnecessary difficulties (not justified by and often in violation of the spirit of Jewish law) to those who need their services, but they are powerless to prevent alternative groups from forming and running their own activities. Wherever enough people gather together to form a synagogue, minyan, or other group, they do not need approval from anyone. The rigid establishment is fighting against the tide, and its rulings are relevant only to those who voluntarily accept its authority.

Fifty years ago, Israel offered the best hope for the physical survival of the Jewish people, but in its second jubilee, Israel's major attraction has become the explosion in Jewish learning and creativity, which the ingathering of exiles has allowed.

Once again, the center of Torah is in Zion, and the rediscovery of the vast array of treasures from generations of Jewish tradition is the main hope for the future.

## Middle Israel

AMOTZ ASA-EL

## Levy's law of return

Having repatriated David Levy - that diplomatic whiz, social hero, economic visionary, and unwavering ideologue missing from Benjamin Netanyahu's cabinet of prodigies - our prime minister can bask in yet another political coup.

Unfortunately, that's a lot more than can be said of the rest of us, for whom the Bibi-Levy soap opera's vicious cycles of winks, pranks, slurs, embraces, divorces, and many happy returns has long ceased to be entertainment and become a cause for cramps, indigestion, and overall nausea.

On all possible accounts - the personal, programmatic, circumstantial and national - Levy's latest recruitment is saga, farce, and tragedy all at once.

On the personal level, Israel's quintessential narcissist - long famous for his prima-donish mannerisms - has now shed the last shred of self-respect we might still have found in him.

Hardly 10 months into his ostensibly principled resignation, this enemy of market economics has sheepishly crawled back to the scene of the crime, despite its painfully unchanged fundamentals, i.e. a stringent budget presided over by the same unconstructed Yaakov Neeman amid the same - even worse - festering job crisis, stagnant growth rates, and roughshod interest rates which were his official pretext for leaving in the first place.

Faced with this glaring inconsistency, Levy is trying to rewrite history to create the impression that the main cause for his departure was the state of the peace process, which, he says, has now improved with the ratification of the Wye accord. Yet if that's the case, then Levy must seek an explanation for his own failure to achieve what his successor, Ariel Sharon, now has. Evidently, Levy's sad lack of intellectual gravity and leadership capacity was a major factor - by default - behind Netanyahu's initial reluctance to brave the Rubicon he ended up crossing on Israel's most controversial, but undisputedly broadest, pair of shoulders - Sharon's.

It is the foreign minister's task to entice a reluctant chief executive into painful but necessary diplomatic initiatives; that is what Henry Kissinger, Moshe Dayan, and Shimon Peres did respectively, with Richard Nixon, Menachem Begin, and Yitzhak Rabin. However for Levy, a foreign minister who seldom met with ambassadors and, according to aides, could scarcely locate on a globe the countries from which his guests would come, such a role in reshaping history was too Herculean.

Still, when his resignation seemed final - in the aftermath of the '98 budget skirmish - some actually thought that, at 59, after nearly three decades in the Knesset and an aggregate 16 ministerial years, Levy had changed. Now, they said, he would dedicate himself to an oppositioner's thankless trench warfare in the name of the poor, an admirable cause later sprinkled with a pinch of anti-haredi bravado, when Shas confronted Levy's son on his home turf of Beit She'an.

Well, now we know better. With his pompously heralded unholy truce with Yossi Sarid ending in a crushing electoral defeat in the Histadrut, and now boiling down to a cabinet seat alongside arch-hawks like Rafael Eitan and

vintage theocrats like Meir Porush, Levy's ideological transfiguration appears in its real light.

In resigning, the man who had made a career of self-adulation, big talk, and small work hoped to deal Netanyahu the final and fatal blow from which Levy's old nemesis would never recover.

Despite his resignation coming on the heels of Dan Meridor's and Benny Begin's departures from his coop, Netanyahu survived and Levy's calculation failed. Within a few weeks, the man who had grown accustomed to attending inner cabinet meetings, appearing on prestigious talk shows, and being obsequiously addressed as "Mr. Minister," suddenly felt a sharp thud in the middle of his spineless back.

It was, to be sure, the fall from grace, fame, and power, and bandaging his wounds now became Levy's ultimate raison d'être, superseding everything from bettering the lot of the disenfranchised to preaching enlightenment to amulet-bride voters. It took two electoral setbacks - in the Histadrut and Beit She'an - for Levy to cower back into Netanyahu's orbit, clearly scared stiff by the thought of going it alone in a general election and focused, yet again, on seeking the best bandwagon on which to hitchhike to yet another Knesset term.

Still, with all due respect to Levy's machinations and cowardice, the ghost dance we're witnessing takes two, and his partner's record looms no less short-sighted, cynical and pathetic.

First, there is the arithmetic. The dowry which Levy brings to this marriage of convenience comprises hardly three parliamentary bands. The other two Geshet votes include Dan Meridor-fan David Magen and anti-Wye activist Michael Kleiner. Netanyahu can depend on them about as much as Bill Clinton could on Kenneth Starr.

Then there are - if anyone still cares - the issues. How is Levy, the ultimate populist, supposed to reconcile his tax-and-spend ideas for job creation with the Frenkel-Neeman-Netanyahu trio's faith in small government, reduced taxation, and a strong shekel?

Apparently, Netanyahu cares little about all this. Muddling through is the name of the game, so long as there is no early election which he might lose, or a unity government in which he stands to be overshadowed.

Yet Levy, in his elevation of patronage, nepotism, and self-promotion to absolute values, while shunning bold encounters with voters, issues, and challenges - like taking on the Treasury and actually executing the economic alchemy in which he believes - looms as the cause, result, and embodiment of all that is sickening about our political life.

Netanyahu clearly realizes all this, and yet clutches Levy to his bosom with the soft kiss of a forgiving father before waltzing off into the sunset with his long-lost love, like JR and Sue Ellen Ewing after the former's unrepentant act of infidelity and the latter's latest suicide attempt.

Evidently, neither dancer cares anymore about the choreography, outfit, lighting, or floor, let alone the audience. Netanyahu and Levy have flung back into each other's arms because, at the end of the day, they complement, miss, and, above all, deserve each other.

## We can't afford to lose

With the opening of Gaza International Airport, the outlines of a new Palestinian strategy to defeat Israel are coming into focus.

The Oasis Casino in Jericho, in which the Palestinian Authority has a major stake, was obviously built with Israeli gamblers in mind, and it would have been a commercial success even if the casinos in Turkey had not closed down only a short while before.

Since its opening, the casino has become such an irresistible lure to Israelis that the IDF has prohibited soldiers, even those off duty and out of uniform, from patronizing its tables. But other Israelis, who normally wouldn't consider donating one thin dime to the Palestinians, are pouring so much money into the casino, hence into the coffers of the PA, that they have turned it into our biggest foreign aid program.

And now there are rumors that the Gaza airport will offer attractive deals to Israeli travelers, thereby skimming off the ticket taxes and other revenues from air-

port operations that have hitherto gone to the Treasury; the profits from duty-free sales alone might finance another Orient House.

The Palestinians are exploiting the inability of Israelis to resist betting on a long shot or passing up the best deal around, lest their neighbors find a cheaper one and prove what suckers they have been. This is war by other means, and it threatens to undermine our economy and destroy our morale. It reflects a cynical attitude toward peace that cannot be tolerated.

Israel must therefore respond with a comprehensive, multi-layered strategy that includes elements of both passive and active defense and deterrence.

The defensive measures are fairly straightforward - gambling in Jericho and flying through Gaza should be illegal, and Israelis trying to do so should be intercepted, tried, and sentenced to long prison terms.

This will require a major investment of resources (stationary observation posts, mobile patrols, bypass roads, sensor systems,

satellites, etc.), but a determined effort will ensure that a high pro-

**The Palestinians are exploiting the inability of Israelis to resist betting on a long shot or passing up the best deal around**

portion of perpetrators are caught before they can inflict serious damage on national security.

Even with the best effort, however, a significant degree of leakage will be inevitable, and it will be necessary to back up these measures with a credible threat of massive retaliation.

CRITICS of realpolitik may object on the grounds that this is

unethical, but if the Palestinians want to undermine Israel by indulging its weaknesses, they should not be surprised if Israel responds in kind.

The immediate problem is that similar Palestinian vulnerabilities are not that obvious - cheap ark is not in the same category as cheap flights to Antalya - so one immediate task is establishing a national security review team to make an inventory of Palestinian weaknesses that could be exploited in the same manner.

Still, there is at least one Achilles' heel that already presents itself: the insatiable Palestinian appetite for divisive politics based on competitive victimization. Unfortunately, most of the really good Palestinian politicians who could have been used to feed this appetite have remained outside, in Tunis, Damascus, or Amman; that has left the playing field relatively clear for Yasser Arafat.

Fortunately, there are ways to remedy this situation. One is to insist that all those politicians be

brought to the meeting in Gaza next month to hear Bill Clinton extol the virtues of peace, and then not be allowed to leave. And if that doesn't work, it is always possible to take advantage of our comparative advantage in producing politicians.

After all, we have a whole army of surplus has-beens and wannabes, at both the national and municipal levels. The former refuse to get off stage, and the latter refuse to stop trying to get on.

Since there is little for them to do here, dumping them on a captive Palestinian market (perhaps as a condition of any further redeployments) would serve a dual purpose. Recent developments strongly suggest that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is about to escalate to a deadly new stage of competitive pandering to the self-indulgence of the other side. Unless the Americans step in again and pander to both sides, this could turn out to be a fight to the finish, a fight that we cannot afford to lose.

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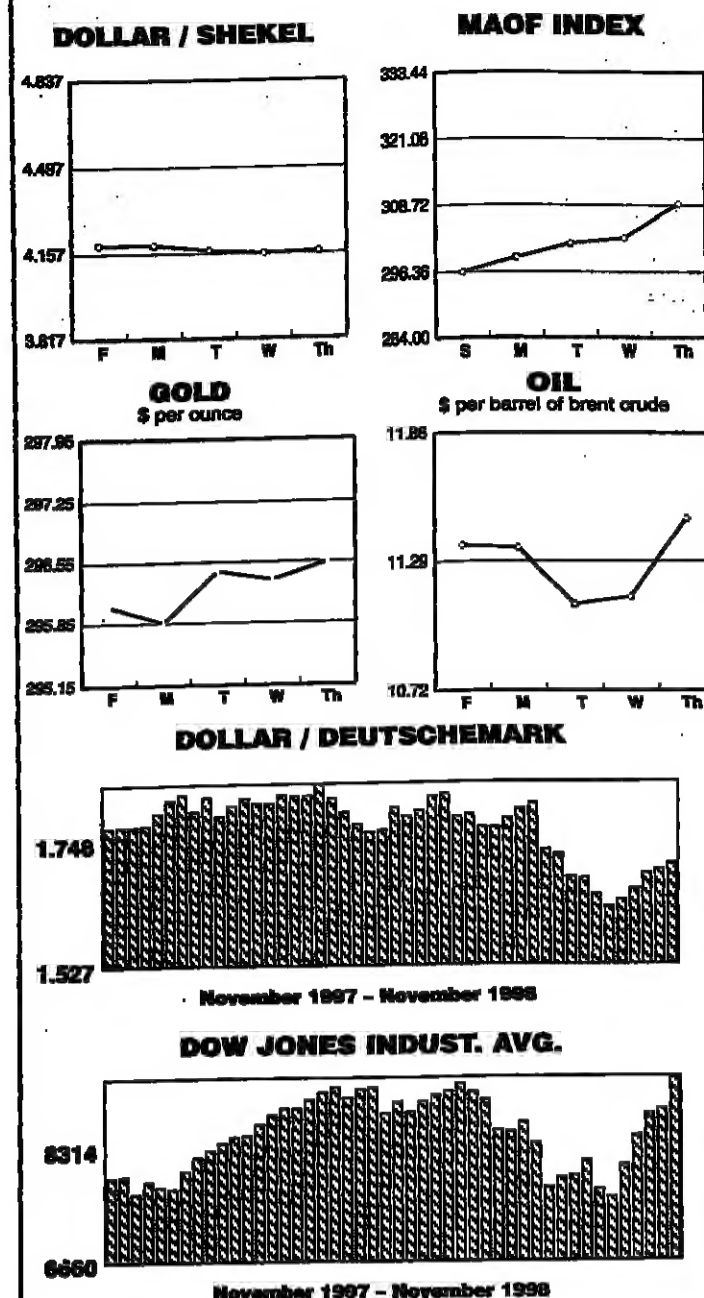
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## MARKETS

in brief



### BITS AND BYTES

#### Nomura buys 11% of Versaware

Nomura, the Japanese investment bank, has acquired 11 percent of the electronic publishing firm Versaware Technologies for \$8 million. The deal marks the second investment in Israel for Nomura, one of the five largest investment banks in Japan, which recently put \$4m. into biotechnology company XTIL.

Versaware, which is based in Jerusalem and was founded in January 1997, specializes in Internet-based digital publishing technologies. Company sales this year are expected to reach \$6m. Versaware was founded by entrepreneur and inventor Harry Fox with an investment of \$7m. The company has over 80 employees.

**Check Point unveils new network security solution**  
Check Point Software Technologies, the global leader in Secure Enterprise Networking solutions, has unveiled the industry's first solution for centrally creating and managing the network security policies of multiple corporate customers.

Check Point Provider-1 pairs its network security capabilities, built on existing Check Point technology, with streamlined management capabilities developed specifically for Managed Service Providers. The product represents a breakthrough for MSP's, enabling the management of network security and virtual private networks for multiple customers to run concurrently on one hardware server while maintaining full isolation between individual customer databases. Company management said the new capability lowers hardware and personnel costs. Check Point has its international headquarters in Ramat Gan.

**Tescom wins key Greek QA projects**  
Quality assurance software company Tescom has won projects worth \$500,000 for two Greek financial institutes. The firm, based in Givat Savivon, will provide the Commercial Bank of Greece with quality assurance software as part of a project to computerize the bank's branches. The Commercial Bank is the second largest in Greece. The second agreement is to provide a data base of securities for the electronic commerce section of the Athens Stock Exchange.

#### Industrial production slows in 3rd quarter

By DAVID ZEV HARRIS

Industrial production slowed in the third quarter to an annualized 1.5 percent, compared to 2% in the second quarter and 5% between January and March, the Central Bureau of Statistics said this week.

An initial bureau prediction puts overall industrial production growth this year at some 2.5-3%. These figures exclude the diamond industry.

The number of employee-hours worked in the third quarter fell by 3% in yearly terms, while there was a 1% decline in the number of hired workers. On Tuesday, the Employment Service warned that November would show a substantial drop in the number of employees as some 20 factories said they were on the verge of closure.

The trend figures, which the bureau used to produce its overall 1998 forecast, have shown a downturn in production since January, when monthly growth reached 0.5%.

The original and seasonal data (slightly less reliable methods of measuring longer-term patterns) both show sharp downturns in production. Meanwhile, the Bank of Israel yesterday published its integrated

index of economic indicators, which showed no change in October. In September the index dropped 0.5%.

The index included a 1.9% jump in retail chain store sales, compared to a 0.1% rise the previous month. The imports index increased 1.6%, after a 7.5% decline in September.

The industrial production index, which is always a month behind the other categories, registered a 0.8% decline in September, following a 0.1% fall in August.

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#### IMF's Fischer:

## Housing index destabilizing economy

By AMOTZ ASA-EL

The incorrect treatment of housing prices in the consumer price index is a major source of instability in the Israeli economy, deputy managing director of the International Monetary Fund Stanley Fischer told *The Jerusalem Post* this week.

In an interview following the recent volatility in the currency market and the controversy surrounding the central bank's role in shaping the economy, Fischer also said that as far as the outside world is concerned, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel is "a bulwark of stability."

If the governor were to be dis-

missed - as some of Frenkel's opponents recommended - the action would "signal that the policies he is identified with are being repudiated" and cost Israel dearly in terms of foreign investment and investor confidence, Fischer said.

Meanwhile, Frenkel yesterday attacked calls for a retreat from next year's 4 percent inflation goal, as some ministers suggest, and the establishment of a board of governors at the central bank, as some MKs are proposing. He spoke at the annual meeting of Israel's insurance agents in Tel Aviv.

Fischer's remarks on the housing index pertain to the existing model, which is largely based on new apartment price tags. On the face of

it, the prices are automatically dollar adjusted, but in real terms they fluctuate because when demand dwindles, contractors change the content of the product - whether by adding features to the apartment or by selling it along with a host of other items - without this being factored into the index.

As a result, the housing index, and with it the CPI itself, have often risen while in reality housing demand actually declined.

The Central Bureau of Statistics intends to introduce a new housing index, emulating West European and North American rental-oriented models, effective January 1.

The bureau expects the new index to affect the CPI beginning

February 15, but declines at this point to predict what kind of impact its introduction may have on the economy.

Concerning the deeper roots of Israel's current economic hardships, Fischer said those were largely linked to the global crisis.

"That is, clear from the timing, and from the fact that many other countries have seen such pressure on their exchange rates," he said.

While Israel is "in important respects" to be counted among the advanced industrialized countries, it still lacks stability-oriented policies of low inflation, stable exchange rates, and reasonably balanced budgets, according to Fischer.

"It is this factor, the fear that

Israel's achievements of this decade could easily be reversed at any time, by a return to the failed populist policies of the past, that prevents Israel being regarded by the capital markets as a fully advanced country, he said.

Israel could move more decisively towards becoming an economically fully advanced country if the political system would support both the independence of the central bank and the stability-oriented fiscal policies that the Treasury has been pursuing in the last two years, he added.

"It would also help if Israel presented its data on the same basis as other countries," Fischer said.

#### Lucent completes \$50 million takeover of WaveAccess

By DAN GERSTENFELD

Lucent Technologies has decided to exercise an option to acquire the remaining 80 percent of Ra'anana-based WaveAccess for some \$50 million in cash, the company announced this week.

Last May Lucent, which is North America's largest producer of phone equipment, purchased a 20% stake in WaveAccess, a provider of high-speed, wireless data communications technology, for \$6m.

WaveAccess, which was founded in 1993, employs some 65 workers and has offices in Wellesley, Massachusetts. The shareholders in WaveAccess which Lucent is buying out include local venture capital funds Teuza and Nitzan and the company's founders.

Teuza, which is traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, said yesterday that following the deal it would present a capital gain of some NIS 43m. Nitzan, which had been the largest shareholder in the firm with a 25% stake, said it will have a pre-tax profit of some \$13m. Nitzan, which is controlled by Kardian Technology Ventures, purchased WaveAccess in 1995 from the insolvent Adacom for only \$1m, and has invested another \$1m. since then.

In a statement, Lucent said the acquisition will provide it with a high-performance packet radio technology for licensed spectrum wireless Internet access and metropolitan area networks.

Lucent said that during the last six months, the companies have been collaborating on developing a wireless Internet access system. The technology enables network operators to offer wireless Internet access at rates faster than the current computer modems do.

Lucent said that the deal, which will be completed by the end of March, is expected to result in a one-time charge against earnings.

Lucent already has been active in Israel; last July it acquired Tel Aviv-based Lammot for \$117m. in cash from UK-based Madge Networks N.V. Following the deal, Lammot was turned into the company's local technology center.

Headquartered in New Jersey, Lucent designs build and delivers a wide range of public and private networks, communications systems and software. The buying of WaveAccess is the latest in a series of acquisitions by Lucent. The firm announced on Wednesday that it has acquired Pario Software, a privately held start-up company from California, for an undisclosed sum.



It's a deal

Korean Minister of Commerce, Industry and Energy Park Tae-young (right) and Trade and Industry Minister Nathan Sharansky yesterday signed an agreement for the establishment of a joint \$6 million industrial research and development fund.

#### Clal, IAI profits soar; Zim back in the black

Clal Israel, the country's second largest holding company, yesterday announced that third-quarter net profit surged 144.3 percent to NIS 64 million from NIS 26m. a year earlier.

The profitability was affected mainly by a sharp increase by its subsidiary, Clal Industries and Investments, which announced earlier this week that third-quarter net profit surged to NIS 34.3m. from NIS 11.3m.

In addition, the results include capital gains from the sale of several subsidiaries including Clal Trading, the sale of 5% of ECI Telecom and 56% of Granit Hacarmel by Clal Industries, and property selling by Clal Insurance. The results were also affected by improved results of Clal's insurance subsidiary which reported an increase in profits from NIS 17.3m. to NIS 26.5m. Revenues for the third-quarter fell to NIS 1.07 billion from NIS 1.2b. a year ago.

Net profit for the first nine months of the year rose from NIS 89.8m. to NIS 283.6m. while revenues decreased to NIS 3.5b. from NIS 3.6b. a year ago. The most encouraging fact presented by Clal was that the return of equity on an annual basis rose in the first nine months to 13% from 4.1% in the corresponding period last year.

**IAI net up 154%**  
Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) yesterday announced that net profit

for the first nine months of the year surged 154 percent to \$30.8 million from \$12.1m. a year ago.

In a statement, the company said the results indicate a clear improvement in all business parameters. The company refrained, however, from giving further details concerning the reasons for the rise in profitability and detailed results for the third-quarter.

Sales for the January-September period rose 22% to \$1.42 billion from \$1.17b. in the corresponding period in 1997. The company added that exports rose 25% to 1.11n. from \$885m. a year ago.

IAI said that new business contracts reached \$1.17b. for the first nine months and its backlog reached \$2.7b.

**ZIM back in black**  
Zim Israel Navigation Co. yesterday reported third-quarter net profit of \$2.1 million compared with net loss of \$8m. a year ago.

The shipping company, which is controlled by the Israel Corp., said that revenues rose to \$387.7m. from \$371.2m. mainly due to the expansion of its international activities.

For the first nine months of the year net loss narrowed to \$7.5m from \$31.7m. a year earlier while income rose to \$1.14 billion from \$1.06b. in the corresponding period in 1997.

The company said that rising global competition led to a reduction in freight rates and decline in the utilization of vessels capacity. The results were also affected by the financial crisis in the Far East, as the sharp devaluation

of Asian currencies led to a rise in exports and decline in imports from these countries. The company had therefore to send empty containers on vessels to be loaded in Far Eastern ports.

In addition, despite the fact that

Zim is still prohibited from shipping goods to many Arab ports, the lifting of the Arab ban allowed international shipping companies to expand their activities in Israeli ports. This hurt Zim's dominant position in the local market.

The company said, however, that despite growing competition it managed to increase its operations, with the volume of cargos shipped in containers rising in the first nine months by 9.6%.

Zim added that international trade activities rose to a record high of 74.7% of its revenues from shipping operations.

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Like a couple who despise each other but can't live apart, Levy and Netanyahu go from trying to pretend the other doesn't exist (left) to at least a show of cooperation (photos from 1997, before then-foreign minister Levy bolted the cabinet).

## 'Houdini' faces his toughest trap yet

Hemmed in by the Right, the budget, promoters of national unity and the specter of early elections, Israel's master escape artist has grabbed David Levy's outstretched hand. Temporary relief, perhaps, but Netanyahu's shackles could yet tighten with a vengeance. Sarah Honig reports



Sharon: Pushing for unity

Local political mythology ascribes almost magical powers of survival to the prime minister, no matter how dire his circumstances. A remarkable escape artist, Benjamin Netanyahu has indeed managed to extricate himself, Houdini-like, from an impressive number of seemingly insoluble crises.

The post-Wye turmoil in his coalition offers him ample opportunity to demonstrate his fabled skills. Some claim that he has already demonstrated them by making up with David Levy yet again, thereby improving his odds.

The two, like an old couple who despise each other but can't live apart, will shake up together for as long as it suits them. But it's safe to assume that they will not cohabit happily ever after.

Levy is a difficult and unreliable partner, from Netanyahu's vantage point, and Netanyahu will have to be constantly watching his back.

Still, it's a small price to pay for political survival. Netanyahu is even willing to pay with a hefty slice of the Likud central committee, something he had previously refused to let Levy have.

It is, however, unlikely that Likud politicians, spearheaded by the outspoken Limor Livnat, will let their chief get away with it. A large Levy contingent in the central committee, combined with Avigdor Lieberman's sizable crew, will make it hard for anyone not in those cliques to win a safe slot on the next slate of Likud Knesset candidates.

By co-opting Levy once more, Netanyahu may be seeking some temporary peace of mind — but he may also be stirring up a terrifying hornet's nest inside his own party.

For Levy, a return to the Likud may be a lifeline considering Geshet's pitiful showing in this month's local elections, which effectively wiped out any chance for a credible independent Geshet ticket. This is why Levy is suddenly so amenable to persuasion.

Levy can offer Netanyahu a dowry of only three MKs — himself, his brother Maxim and Yehuda Lankri. Geshet's other MKs, Michael Kleiner and David Magen, both opposed Wye.

Kleiner, who heads the Knesset Land of Israel Front, will be happy to go back to his Likud home, where his chances of winning another Knesset term are good. But he will not vote with Netanyahu now. Magen, meanwhile, has suspended his activity in Geshet and is not bound back for the Likud, either.

So while Levy cannot deliver the secure parliamentary majority Netanyahu needs, he can ease the pressure.

In the long run, other moves will have to follow Netanyahu's latest house-poc.

Some claim the deal with Levy is nothing but a sleight of hand, a move to surreptitiously open the door to admit Labor into the government. It's noted that Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon was instrumental in effecting the latest reconciliation with Levy, while simultaneously keeping up his contacts with Labor's Shimon Peres. The aim is to bring all of Labor — or a Peres-led chunk of it — into the coalition.

The fact that Netanyahu is in better shape following Levy's return, has, in fact, led to some

second thoughts in Labor. MK Uzi Baram, for example, thinks that "national unity must not be ruled out. There is something to discuss."

But Labor Party Chairman Ehud Barak contends that "Netanyahu is behind the national unity rumor-mongering." The prime minister's motivation, according to the head of the opposition, "is to strike fear in NRP and Likud hearts."

There is another fear that ought to be considered. Both Barak and Netanyahu are keenly aware of the lurking presence of former chief of staff Amnon Lipkin-Shahak.

"Shahak's political prowess is untamed, and thus is perhaps perceived as more menacing than it might eventually turn out to be. But neither Barak nor Netanyahu can know for sure. It might pay them both to unite against Shahak for now," judges Likud MK Reuven Rivlin.

Besides this common interest, Barak is reported to be increasingly aware of the possibility that he might not be able to bring Netanyahu down in a Knesset vote. For either a no-confidence motion or the early elections bills to pass, the support of 61 MKs is mandatory. After Netanyahu's Levy coup, Barak is eight votes short of that goal.

Netanyahu is equally stymied. Not only is he threatened by the possibility that anti-Wye rebels from within his coalition will help Barak reach the magic 61 mark, his inability to muster a majority will become most critical when the budget bill is submitted for its second and third readings.

Barak might be further tempted by the opportunity to obtain a high-profile portfolio. As defense minister, he would be propelled to prominence and popularity, which beats carping from the sidelines.

The fact that national unity could build Barak up is not desirable to Netanyahu — but, on the other hand, with Barak as his subordinate, Netanyahu would have him under control.

Netanyahu might also be spared much of the savage vilification to which he is now subjected, heading a unity coalition might lend him the legitimacy his political opponents have denied him from the day he was elected.

THIS is precisely what many in Labor do not want to confer upon Netanyahu — hence, their staunch opposition to national unity. Labor, argues MK Yossi Beilin, "would have a hard time bringing Netanyahu down in an election after having given him its stamp of approval."

Barak cannot publicly advocate unity if that might trigger vicious internecine warfare in his own party. He knows he cannot bring the entire Labor faction into a

coalition under Netanyahu.

Netanyahu has his own set of fears. He cannot bring his entire present coalition into a marriage with Labor, either. If he "proposed" to Barak publicly, the NRP would walk out on him, and Netanyahu would be left without a coalition.

Meanwhile, the Wye deal has robbed Netanyahu of his mainstay of the ideological Right — from the settler to Likud to Revisionist veterans. The fact that they might not have a viable alternative won't necessarily save him.

If the Right — religious and secular — does not evince enthusiasm for his cause and mobilize on his behalf, he will lose. In addition, Netanyahu is probably the most demonized premier ever. And a tarnished reputation is no electoral asset.

National unity advocates like Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharansky insist that the only alternative to it is early elections. In this vein, coalition whip Meir Sheerit maintained that "anyone who doesn't opt for national unity will be forced to face early elections."

His assumption is that Netanyahu will do anything to avoid going to the polls soon.

But when Netanyahu was at Wye, his boosters back home warned that he would call early elections if he encountered resistance to the deal inside his coalition.

Perhaps, at the time, Netanyahu had visions of riding the crest of popularity, claiming that he had made good his promise to contract a secure peace. Donning the mantle of a peacemaker, Netanyahu may have entertained the hope of winning the political center and convincing it to entrust him with the final-status talks.

The problem is that no one has ever proved that such a center really exists. If, nevertheless, a

significant portion of the electorate does occupy a politically colorless middle ground, it most likely doesn't care about Wye. Those who do favor it won't vote for Netanyahu.

Meanwhile, the Wye deal has robbed Netanyahu of his mainstay of the ideological Right — from the settler to Likud to Revisionist veterans. The fact that they might not have a viable alternative won't necessarily save him.

If the Right — religious and secular — does not evince enthusiasm for his cause and mobilize on his behalf, he will lose. In addition, Netanyahu is probably the most demonized premier ever. And a tarnished reputation is no electoral asset.

IN other words, calling early elections is something Netanyahu will do only if he has no other choice. The risk is not one he can lightly take. He knows how he will enter the electoral fray; he can never predict how he will emerge from it.

This is equally true of Barak. Despite his gung-ho noises, elections are risky for him, too. Almost all Labor higher-ups now concede that Barak has no charisma. With Netanyahu so maligned and under constant attack, Barak should be doing much better at the polls, which now have him and the premier running neck and neck.

Labor MK Rafik Haj-Yihye told Barak point blank a few days ago at a faction meeting that he will "lose the next election, and lose big." Haj-Yihye had only given public voice to what other Laborites were whispering in private.

Despite these apprehensions, there is much to recommend elections now to Barak. Waiting a

campaign after withdrawals could help him get some moderate right-wingers away from Netanyahu by hammering home the point that he can no longer be depicted as more dovish than the prime minister.

It would also do Barak well to campaign just after the budget convocations, "which immediately make any government look bad. Netanyahu might not even make it through the annual rite; his government could disintegrate in an odious mess."

Finally, given the economic situation, Netanyahu will not have the luxury of a vote-winning spending spree.

MERETZ leader Yossi Sarid believes that "all this is idle talk. It will never come to early elections or national unity, he says."

"Netanyahu will mend his coalition by wriggling out of Wye. This has been Netanyahu's stratagem from the outset. He signed an agreement without any intention of implementing it."

To support his contention, Sarid points to "the recent cabinet vote on the first withdrawal under the Wye deal. Netanyahu barely squeezed out a majority. Had only one minister voted differently, a tie would have resulted which would have stalled the entire Wye process."

Even one of the Wye negotiators — Natan Sharansky — abstained in the withdrawal vote, thereby implying lack of confidence in the way the Palestinians are living up to their end of a bargain which hinges on reciprocity.

There is no certainty that, as time goes on, Yasser Arafat will inspire more confidence. Most political observers are no longer sure that it will be possible to win cabinet approval for the next withdrawal, due in little more



Sharansky: For early elections

than a month. Worse yet, the fact that this will almost coincide with the budget convocations could spell the end of the coalition.

Netanyahu is sure to find himself pitted against Likud diehards and the NRP over the next batch of territorial concessions. The feud could aggravate the budget woes. The two crises could intertwine, and Wye would be tied to budgetary extortion. A beleaguered Netanyahu would be regarded as a soft touch. Everything might then come to a screeching halt.

But failure to agree on the next pullback might actually afford Netanyahu a way out of his troubles.

If he does not press too vigorously for another withdrawal and desists from battling the cabinet's hawks, if he allows them to vote against continuing the process, he could conceivably turn the hand of the clock back to pre-Wye time. And if he finds a plausible pretext for escaping the Wye bind, he might restore calm to his turbulent coalition.

Even Wye supporters like Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai might be relieved to avoid the national-unity scenario. Mordechai is likely to pay with his portfolio for a partnership with Barak. The Third Way, too, might accept an anti-Wye cabinet vote to avoid a pullback in the Jordan Valley. The mission is not impossible for Netanyahu.

The downside, if Netanyahu listens to Ariel Sharon, is that he will only be postponing the

inevitable. A future Labor government, Sharon has been arguing, will only strike a worse bargain from the Right's point of view.

It would be best if the final-status talks were not left to the Barak-Bellin-Sarid team, Sharon stresses.

But to conduct the permanent-status negotiations the government will have to stay alive.

"It might well come down to a choice between Wye and survival," says Tourism Minister Moshe Katzav.

WRIGGLING out of Wye may mean hell to pay on the diplomatic scene, where the Americans and Europeans are sure to pillory Netanyahu. He might be willing to risk foreign displeasure, though, if the choice is between a temporary international tempest and a certain political collapse.

Much of what eventually happens now depends on Netanyahu's mindset. Even those closest to him cannot be sure of his intentions or perceptions. No one knows which of the above scenarios, if any, is preferable to him.

The key may be what he was thinking at Wye when he got himself into a fix that would confound even the fabled Houdini. Netanyahu, it is said, around him, should have realized that he was committing political suicide at Wye.

"Were Netanyahu a fraction as astute as he is reputed to be," said one of the ministers who voted against the withdrawal last week, "he would have known that Clinton's gratitude for his altruism would be short-lived, if not meaningless, that there would be no real safety net from the Left, and that the far Right — which brought Shamir down for the minor Madrid Conference transgression — would be vengeful and unforgiving."

"Maybe international considerations overshadowed his domestic political prudence. Maybe he just trusted that things would somehow work out, as they have for him so far, despite the odds."

Or maybe Netanyahu, too, fell for the myth and felt like Houdini, thus recklessly bringing his political troubles upon himself.

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# Up the hills – a view from the high ground

By grabbing hilltops, settlers hope to lay the foundations for more favorable borders. They also want to rekindle that Gush Emunim spirit of the Seventies, as Herb Keinon discovers

The distant and recent past converge in a mobile home on a dusty hilltop near the settlement of Ma'aleh Michmash, a 10-minute ride north of Jerusalem, where Nitzan Riklin, 31, gently rocks her six-week-old son, Gideon.

The ancient past is present in the scenery – call it vintage biblical. The Judean Desert lies to the east, Jerusalem to the southwest. The area is surrounded by brown hills that, to paraphrase Psalms, "skip like rams, leap like lambs."

The recent past is evident in the mobile home – call it vintage 1975 Gush Emunim. A generator groans in the background, a hammer pounds away in a mobile home nearby. A small sign affixed to the trailer says, "Welcome to Mitzpe Danny," and an Israeli flag flaps in a light breeze.

Riklin is one of dozens of Israelis who, in the last few months, have moved to various hilltops and strategic points near settlements throughout the West Bank in a barely disguised attempt to extend the boundaries of their settlements as far as possible, lest the next Wye withdrawal come and snatch the land from underneath their noses.

They are doing what Foreign Minister Ariel Sharon recommended two weeks ago when he called on settlers to head to the hills and stake a claim.

But in most cases, including the one at Mitzpe Danny – named after Danny Frei, who was killed by a terrorist at Ma'aleh Michmash in 1995 – the move to the hilltop predated the foreign minister's controversial advice.

"We moved up here the Saturday night after Wye was signed," says the highly personable Riklin. "We couldn't sit and do nothing. We wanted to provide a suitable Zionist reaction."

To many, this "suitable Zionist reaction" is highly anachronistic. Almost as anachronistic, in fact, as the one-day move this week by Shavei Shomron residents to Sebastia, that old railroad station near Nablus where Gush Emunim rammed itself into the national consciousness in 1974-75, and which has since become a symbol of the settlement movement.

"Don't these people get it?" more than a few armchair pundits likely asked themselves, after watching images of settlers returning to Sebastia on Sunday's nightly news.

"Don't they realize that they lost, that the jig is up, that parts of Eretz Yisrael have been turned over to the Palestinians, that a Palestinian state is just a matter of time? Why are they repeating these out-of-date settlement ritu-

als?" Riklin, a social worker and mother of two, doesn't get it.

She grew up in Ofra. Her parents demonstrated 24 years ago at Sebastia. The baby in her arms, she says, is the third generation in Samaria.

Many of those who have moved into the mobile homes over the last few weeks, living in the stark, rustic conditions reminiscent of the early days of the settlement movement, are the children of parents who went through exactly the same motions two decades ago.

"We grew up doing this type of thing, and are not afraid of these conditions," says Riklin. "For my husband, who grew up in the city, it is much more difficult."

The jig, Riklin insists, is definitely not up.

"Undoubtedly we are in a crisis," she admits. "But we are not in despair. We will continue building."



1974: Soldiers evacuate settlers from Sebastia.

(Shmuel Rachman)

BUILDING, developing outward, is – alongside intensive lobbying efforts in the Knesset and the cabinet – the settlement movement's main strategy in light of last week's withdrawal.

The building of roads, and the placement of tents, mobile homes and maybe a water tower on the outskirts of settlements are all meant to serve as boundaries more permanent than a pencil line on a map.

Unlike the days of protest

against the Oslo Accord in 1994 and 1995, when moving onto barren hills was for the most part a protest act accompanied by a great deal of fanfare and media attention, the current move to the hills is more genuine, and is being done more quietly.

Those taking to the hilltops around the existing settlements are not going there with the expectation of being pulled down the next day, but are intent on setting the foundations for a perma-

nent presence.

Settlement officials say privately that this type of activity has been going on almost for the duration of the Netanyahu government. The activity has intensified in recent weeks.

If these activities somehow slow down implementation of the agreement, settlement leaders reason, so much the better.

"Our strategy," says Shlomo Filber, associate director of the Council of Jewish Communities

in Judea, Samaria and Gaza, "is to hold up or disrupt the implementation of Wye until May 1999."

The assumption is that Arafat will declare statehood, and our belief – based on polls – is that at that time a majority of Israelis will say that if Arafat unilaterally declares a state, Netanyahu will have the right to annex the rest of the territories.

Li Peter Lerner, the spokesman for the civil administration, says that the IDF intervenes when the settlers attempt to put up homes on land that is not inside the settlements' approved master plan. This explains why the IDF intervened and evicted settlers in some cases, such as on the hills around Kedumim, but not in others, like at Mitzpe Danny.

The hill near Ma'aleh Michmash, Lerner says, is in a unique situation since it is located within Michmash's jurisdictional boundaries – its "city limits" – but not on land approved for development in the settlement's master plan. "For that reason, the civil administration impounded a tractor that was working on the site – since building has not been approved there – but has not taken action to remove Riklin and the other two families from the hill."

Lerner says that illegal Jewish building pales in comparison to illegal Palestinian building taking place on land that has not been approved for construction.

THE settlers' race to the hills is not solely a return to the Gush Emunim mantra of establishing facts on the ground. It is also an effort by those involved to convince themselves, their supporters, and the rest of the country that despite Wye, despite the withdrawal, despite a number of

soon as you pick up your head and begin to stake a claim on land, you are giving yourself a needed infusion, showing that you are very much alive, that you are not giving up.

"If you don't move, you atrophy and die," Feiglin says. "If the settlements let Wye happen, and don't react, then it will cause psychological atrophy."

"These types of actions are important internally, but also externally – as well. They show that the settlements are saying,

**Many of those who have moved into the mobile homes over the last few weeks are the children of parents who went through exactly the same motions two decades ago**

settlements having been turned into islands inside a sea of Palestinian autonomy, the settlement movement is not dead, is not despairing, is not throwing up its arms and folding up its tents.

One of the movement's main thrusts now, explains Yehuda Lieberman, head of the Karmel Shomron Local Council, is to bring more families into the settlements.

According to Peace Now figures, currently there are some 6,000 housing units under construction. An estimated 170,000 Jews now live beyond the Green Line.

Lieberman maintains that in order to attract more people now, at a time when buying West Bank real estate doesn't seem like the world's soundest investment, the movement must return to the message of its early years, the message that Sebastia symbolizes for settlers – determination, self sacrifice, the religious and Zionist value of inhabiting the Land.

"Our strategy now is to show that there is still momentum, construction and activity," Lieberman says. "We want to create a positive upbeat atmosphere, to show that people will continue to live here, and to attract others into the area."

More than anything else, Lieberman says, it is essential for the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza to strengthen the legitimacy of settlement in the eyes of the public.

"There is no doubt that the current political situation creates an uncomfortable situation for people who may want to come and live here," Lieberman says. "The message we want to broadcast is that we have returned to the original values."

Karnet Shomron resident Moshe Feiglin, who led the fiery Zo Artzenu protest movement in 1994 and 1995, and who was convicted of sedition in 1997 for these efforts, says that more than anything else, placing a mobile home here, and a tent there, is good for morale within the settlements themselves.

"This is important for their self-confidence," he explains. "As

"OK, we will be enclaves, and we are in a difficult situation, but we are organizing for life afterwards."

"If I go to the hill next door," Feiglin says, "I am sending a message that I am staying, and organizing to try and stay here in the best situation possible."

Feiglin says this attitude is reminiscent of the early days of the intifada, when many thought that the rocks and petrol bombs on the roads would chase the settlers away. Instead, they placed protective sheets of plastic on their car windows and kept on driving. The number of settlers doubled during those years.

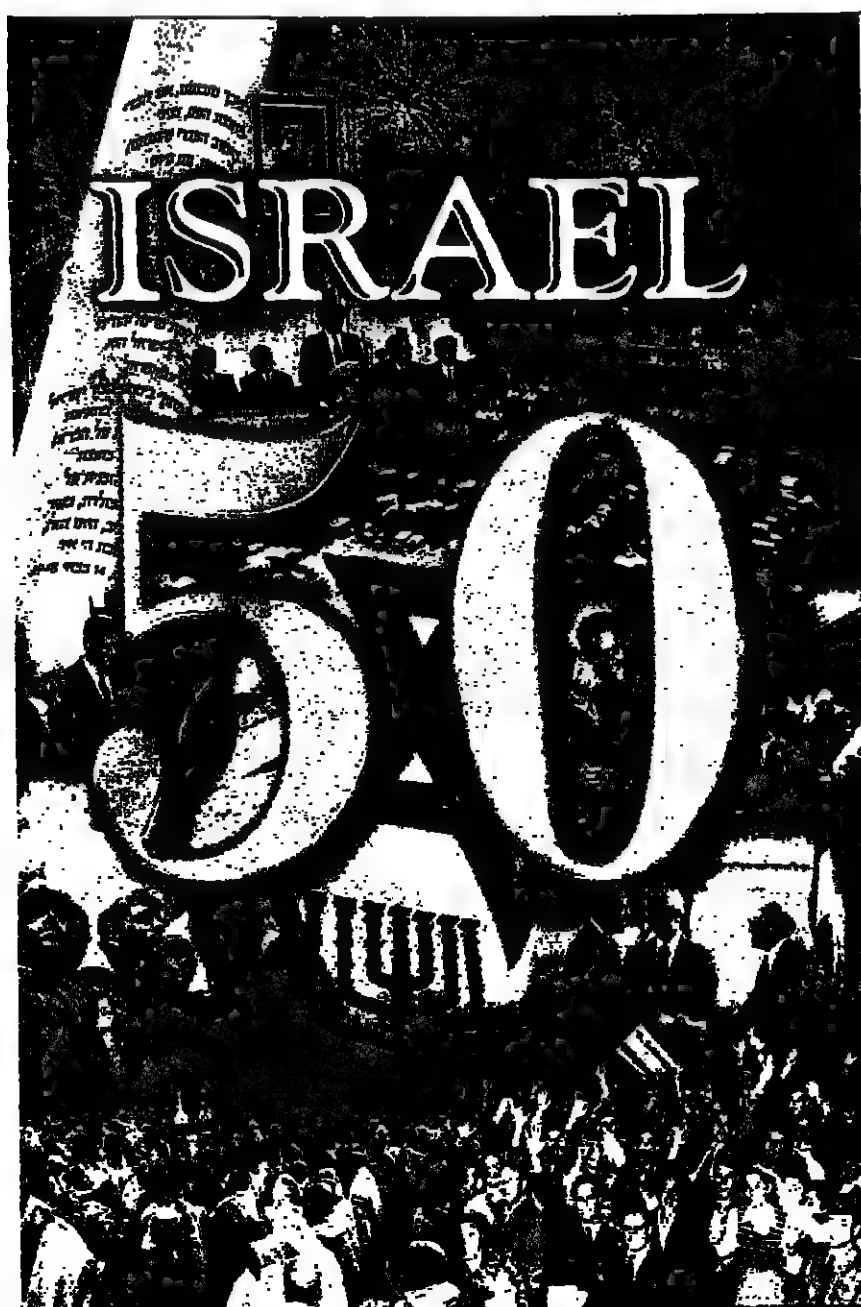
MOSSY Raz, the executive director of Peace Now, has a far less prosaic view of what the race to the hilltops signifies.

"The strategy is to create a dynamic of confrontation between themselves, the IDF and the Palestinians," he says. "The idea is to create confrontation, so that afterward they can say, 'Look, things are not working, let's change things, do it differently.'"

Raz rejects the claim that the settlers are just trying to protect lands either inside, or directly adjacent to, their communities. According to Raz, it is highly unlikely that any withdrawal map will cut a settlement in half, even if half that settlement exists not in the form of houses and neighborhoods, but only on paper as part of a master plan.

But one settlement activist, who did not want to be identified, argues that when figuring out where to withdraw, the master plans – which in some cases are twice as big as the actual built-up area of the settlement – will not keep negotiating teams from cutting through the settlements.

"So what if there is a master plan?" he says. "In the course of negotiations, it could all go. We could very soon wake up one morning and see Palestinian policemen looking down on our homes from a hill that is in our master plan. But if you put up a couple of mobile homes there, or a water tower, you have to cut a road to get there, and the hill becomes part of the settlement. That changes everything."



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Palestinian Airlines crew members

(Photo: Ariel Jerozolimski)

## Spreading their wings

Few people are more aware than Salman Abuhailib and Khalil Jamal that Palestinian aviation started long before Tuesday's opening of Gaza International Airport.

Watching Abuhailib and Jamal watch the nine planes touch down gave a feeling of what it might have been like to sit next to Ezer Weizman at the jubilee air show. Not only were they watching the planes, they were recalling recent Palestinian history.

As the planes landed at the airport this week, flight engineer Jamal could not stop grinning.

"This is like a dream," said the 38-year-old, whose family fled Jaffa in 1948 and later settled in the Sabra refugee camp in Beirut. "If you want to know how I feel, just look at my face."

Jamal, Yasser Arafat's flight engineer since 1989, was on board when the Palestinian leader's plane crash-landed during a sandstorm in the Libyan desert. Three crew members were killed and Arafat sustained wounds to his forehead and his chest.

Jamal survived because the other flight engineers, who died, took his seat. Jamal still bears a scar on his face and three screws in his shoulder. His legs were also injured.

"We have been looking towards this moment since we came back in 1994 [after the Oslo Accord]. Opening our airport and flying our planes makes our people feel free," he said.

Abuhailib, one of the PLO's first pilots, is now director-general of the Palestinian Authority Civil Aviation. Although his face registered little emotion, the significance of the moment was not lost on him.

"Civil aviation is a symbol of Palestinian sovereignty," he said. "It demonstrates the right to an independent state with a capital, airports and planes."

Although Abuhailib, 49, didn't show it, it must have been a sweet experience to join Arafat and other officials in greeting the landing planes, and to escort VIPs from Egypt and the European Union along the red carpet laid out for dignitaries.

"This was a good ceremony for the Palestinians," said Abuhailib, who traveled across three continents as a combat aircraft instructor for the PLO from 1971 to 1978. The first plane to touch down and effectively christen the new facility was greeted by the cheers

**Who are the uniformed Palestinians at Gaza International Airport? Ben Lynfield meets a fighter pilot who helped train Idi Amin's air force and an engineer who narrowly survived a crash-landing with Arafat**

and applause of the several thousand people who thronged to the airport near Rafah along the Egyptian border.

In practical terms, the opening of the airport will allow Palestinians to fly abroad without obtaining entry permits for Israel and Ben-Gurion Airport. It also promises to spur local economy by enabling the direct import and export of goods.

Palestinian Airlines officials said they hope that flights will take off from Gaza next week to Cairo, Amman and Jeddah.

Shlomo Dror, spokesman for Israel's Coordinator of Activities in the Territories, said he was basically satisfied with the airport's opening, but took issue with the PA's emphasis on the link to statehood. "The interim agreement is about autonomy, not a state," he said. "This airport is meant to serve the Palestinians, not be one of their political symbols."

"We have to remember that this airport is working as long as we decide it will work," Dror added. "The moment they do something against the agreement, we can stop the landings there."

FOR Abuhailib, whose family moved from Beersheba to Gaza in 1948, the pathway to power over Palestinian aviation began in 1969, when he joined Arafat's Fatah movement in Jordan.

At that time Fatah had just asserted its control over the PLO and considered itself a national liberation movement paralleling the increasingly victorious Vietcong.

Its ranks were swelling after the battle of Karamah in Jordan against Israeli troops, which Arafat proclaimed as a major victory for his fedayeen fighters.

As part of the Fatah leadership's bid to establish a Palestinian air force, Abuhailib was sent to Algeria for pilot training. The air force was never to become more than a symbolic effort; it depended on the graces of Libya, Yemen and Sudan, whose bases it used.

Abuhailib's foray into aviation came during the heyday of hijackings, including a takeover of three planes by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine in early September 1970. The three planes

were emptied and then detonated on the runway of a desert airstrip in Jordan, a move that triggered King Hussein's Black September crackdown against the PLO. The events reinforced an image, which

lingered, that Palestinian aviation activity consisted of hijacking.

The hijackings of that period, said Abuhailib, "had nothing to do with individuals who now work in Palestinian aviation."

"We did not sabotage civil aviation," he said. "It was other people. This type of talk belongs to the past." He added, "Palestinian aviation is civilized and its aim is to help the Palestinian people."

In Algeria, Abuhailib became an expert in flying Soviet-built MiGs. He then began to work as a fighter pilot instructor for allies of the PLO, including Libya, Sandanista forces in Nicaragua and Idi

Amin's regime in Uganda. Because the recipients of his help assisted the PLO, all of these missions were for the good of the Palestinian cause, Abuhailib said.

Today he seems well aware that it is the US that can offer the Palestinians the most help in building a state. Abuhailib stressed that he never participated in an air fight against US forces or anyone else.

Clearly, however, he was not entirely uninvolved in the wars of his clients. "I taught the Libyans to go fight [in Chad]," he said. In Uganda, Abuhailib says, he got along well with Idi Amin and remembers him as "a simple man who loves sports and swimming." He found Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi to be "very much an Arab nationalist man trying to be [Egyptian president Gamal] Abdel-Nasser's successor."

In 1978, Abuhailib "converted" into a civilian pilot by training with Pakistan International Airlines and obtaining a commercial license. He remained involved in the supervision of the civilian aircraft maintained by the PLO.

Israeli relations with Abuhailib and other PA aviation officials are proper, but not warm, Dror says. "There are professional relations reflecting the interests of both sides, but no more than that. It is not like the personal relations we have with Palestinians in some other areas."

JAMAL, like Abuhailib, joined Fatah as a young man. He served with Fatah forces in Lebanon as a "night guard" and then trained as an engineer with Pakistan International Airlines before being appointed as a flight engineer for Arafat.

Today he would like to see the introduction of combat planes into the armed forces of a Palestinian state. "The date is a long way away, but I hope one day we will have a big air force," he said. "We have the capacity, the land, the forces. Why not? It's our right to do whatever we want - it will be to protect ourselves, not to hurt others."

Abuhailib, who is better placed to influence the matter, says he is against the idea. But, he adds, there could be a form of "police aviation" to monitor borders and the coast against criminal activity.

"I don't expect there to be an air force," Abuhailib says. "Why should there be one? Where would it be? There is no room for it in Gaza and the West Bank."



(Above) The air traffic control tower at Gaza International Airport; (Below) PA Chairman Yasser Arafat at the inauguration of the airport on Tuesday.



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(Left) Student Avi Motzafi: 'I started to realize that Israel had become a country that eats its inhabitants'; (right) High schoolers near Tel Aviv University demonstrate solidarity with the striking students.

## Clean clothes for a soiled society

Standing by their tents outside the Prime Minister's Residence, Avi Motzafi and his fellow striking students were bucking each other up. One striker passed by and kissed Motzafi on his shaven head. Another shook his hand. A third handed him a cup of vegetable broth.

It was Wednesday afternoon. Motzafi, 25, a reserve officer in an elite IDF unit and an economics student one semester short of graduating from Tel Aviv's College of Administration, was in the 17th day of his hunger strike.

"For the first time since I started college four years ago, I feel alive," he said.

Until the strike, Motzafi was planning to become a banker. Now he wants to go into education; he once liked being a youth movement counselor.

The strikers talk about "social revolution," but Motzafi said the strike has also been a "personal revolution" for him.

"How's your strength? You want to help us carry some stuff?" one of the strikers asked Motzafi, throwing an arm around his shoulder. They carried big bags of warm jackets to the World Union of Jewish Students office nearby.

Inside, student organizers looked busy and tired.

One young man was lying in a sleeping bag on the hallway floor. The jackets were for the 30 or so hunger strikers who sleep outdoors.

In the tents, especially at night, the hunger strikers — plus any number of other college students and the people who come by to show support — talk ideas, arguing over what's wrong with Israel and how to change it.

"Ever since the Rabin assassination the younger generation has been lost. Maybe now something has sunk in, we're seeing we can change things, that we have to change things," said Rinat Sagee, 25, a political-science student at the Hebrew University, who was also on the 17th day of her hunger strike.

The mood around the tents was in some ways similar to the spirit that prevailed in Rabin Square in the days after Rabin's murder. There was the same gentle camaraderie and sense of loftiness of purpose. But the sorrow had been replaced by a new feeling of power.

A passing car honked in solidarity. People came up to the petition table and signed their names. "Just about everybody who stops to talk

The students' battle over their pocketbooks has imbued them with a new sense of power. Now they want to use it to change Israelis' lives for the better. Larry Derfner reports

supports us," said the student manning the table.

Asked if he'd heard any opposition, he said, "This morning one student told us we were going to lose the semester, we wouldn't get the 50% cut in tuition, we had to compromise, we were just a bunch of children."

"I told her that we were taking this thing all the way, no matter what."

The very notion of compromise seems foreign to the strikers' spirit.

COMPROMISE represents politics as usual and Israeli life as usual — exactly what the students are disgusted with and want to remake. The strike has been such a profound, transformative experience for them that it's easy to suspect they don't want it to end, that they really don't want to reach an

agreement with the government.

But Ron Fridman, 24, in the eighth day of his hunger strike, demurred.

"Of course I want to go back to college. I'm dying to get back to studying. I'm ready for a compromise, I'm just not ready for a dishonorable compromise," said Fridman, a computer-science student at the Academic College of Tel Aviv-Jaffa.

One of the many signs on the wall along the sidewalk: a Monopoly board for Israeli college students.

Upon passing "Go," they don't collect \$200, they "get money from Ma." There's no "Free Parking," rather there's "Notice: 30 Days IDF Reserve Duty." Instead of "Boardwalk — \$400" and "Park Place — \$350," there's "Tuition — NIS 10,600" and "Rent — NIS 15,120."

A middle-aged couple stood on the sidewalk reading the signs. Albert and Ilana Mouyal were immigrants from France, in Israel for six months.

"Yes we support the strike. It's wonderful," said Albert.

"In France, the state pays for college tuition. Our son, David, goes to the Sorbonne, where he studies philosophy, and it's free. The reason he doesn't come to Israel is because he knows we don't have the money to pay for his college tuition here. It's very expensive."

Sagee, the political-science student, recalled going to Germany with other Israeli university students and learning from her German counterparts "that not only don't they pay tuition over there, they're not even allowed to work while they're going to college because it'll interfere with their studies."

"This is perfectly logical in Germany — but somehow it's perfectly illogical in Israel."

Since the student strike began a little over a month ago, there has been a debate in Israel over whether it was a self-centered movement — out for lower tuition and nothing else — or whether it was truly a social movement, concerned with Israel as a whole.

The students acknowledge that the strike began out of pure pocketbook motives, but that as it progressed — as they took police beatings together, gained heartfelt public support and admiration and became committed to one another — it expanded into something much larger.

The strike became not only a means to an end, but a bearer of the spirit the students want to spread through Israeli society.

"I have one semester to go before I graduate — you think I'm doing this for money?" asked Motzafi.

During the strike Motzafi and other students walked in their underpants down Dizengoff Street, fronted by signs that read, "This country is naked without higher education."

"My father saw the picture of me in Ma'ariv and asked, 'Did you

have to demonstrate in your underwear?' I retorted, 'If you were a student and really believed in what you were doing, you'd demonstrate not just in your underwear but completely naked — wouldn't you?'"

"Ever since then he's supported me all the way," Motzafi said.

THE epiphany came for Motzafi about three weeks ago. He'd been roughed up by police, thrown in jail for nine hours and was on his night job as a security guard.

"I started to shake. I could feel something churning inside me, and I started to bawl like a baby," he recalled.

He said it was as if the scales had fallen from his eyes: "I started thinking of that old patriotic song by Yehoram Gaon — 'There's no place like Eretz Yisrael.' And I realized that Israel had become a country that eats its inhabitants."

"I was raised on love for this

country; I was raised to contribute to it, and I did. And now I'm working as a security guard and a construction worker to pay my tuition, and I have to ask my father for money to buy shaving cream and toilet paper."

"And, then, when I ask this country to give me just a little something, I get thrown in jail. It's like they're telling me to shut up."

The feeling that nobody in Israel cares about anybody else had turned young adults cynical and made them into the "embodiment of self-centered materialists, out to get everything they can for themselves," Motzafi continued.

"They see that everyone in Israel is disgusted with the way things are, and all anybody wants to do is get their two-story house and their garden and live in a little bubble."

"But it's not going to work because there's a tide of resentment rising, and if we don't do something it's going to drown us all."

Said Fridman, a reserve IDF paratroop officer: "Everybody in Israel sits in his living room, reads the newspaper and says, 'It's crap, it's all crap' — and does nothing. People feel nobody will listen to them."

"In the old days, young people would never have dreamt of leaving Israel. Now if you offer them a

good job in America or Australia they'll go.

"We want to change that. We want to give. We want people to start looking out for each other again."

"They used to be yuppies, and maybe one day they'll go back to being yuppies. After all, that's what happened to the American and French students who took to the streets in the name of great causes 30 years ago."

It's still very inchoate for the Israelis. The specifics of their plans don't go beyond tutoring underprivileged pupils — in return for scholarships — and joining with the Histadrut to fight for low-paid workers. Realistically, it's hard to see many of them skipping class to go up to Beit She'an for a hunger strike when the next textile plant closes down.

But their vows to give to society do not seem like a cover-up for a simple cash grab. They've sacrificed, they've risked their necks, and they're giving of themselves to each other.

The future could hold anything, but right now, after all they've been through, when these young people talk about making a social revolution in Israel, they sound like they mean it.

## 'Naivete will triumph'



'Erez the Red' has been arrested four times during the strike.

(Dan Elich)

The Israeli media has dubbed him "Erez the Red," after Danny the Red (Daniel Cohn-Bendit), then-Communist leader of the student protests in Germany in the late 1960s.

Politically, Erez Eshel, student council president of Tel Aviv University, isn't a Red.

"Israel doesn't have to be socialist or communist, but it does have to be humane," he said. Yet if "Red" also connotes a fiery demeanor, then Eshel, the most visible and vocal of the college student strike leaders, has earned his nickname.

"I have no use for Likud or Labor, or the NRP or Meretz, or any of them. They're all completely cut off from the citizenry," he said. Referring to one

cabinet minister he has had dealings with, Eshel said, "This is an evil man."

Eshel, 29, won the TAU student council elections in the spring as the head of Dor Shalem's ticket. His campaign slogan was "Naivete will triumph." It's not a bad slogan for the student strike, he noted.

He has been arrested four times during the strike, and released within a day.

"The conditions in the jails are so harsh I can see how they could break someone," he said. "I spent my time talking with the prisoners, and they told me how they'd landed up where they were."

"They're criminals, but the guilt lies as much with society as

with them."

Like most hard-core student strikers, Eshel talks social revolution with great, convincing passion, but leaves the details for later.

"The student strike is just the first stage. In the next 10 years we're going to close the gaps between rich and poor in this country," he said.

How? "You'll see," he replied. "I planned this strike for three years. I wrote about it. It didn't just come out of nowhere."

As a novice leader of mass movements, Eshel hasn't done badly. In his wildly self-confident plans for the future, then, he probably deserves at least the benefit of the doubt.

— L.D.



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In the context of the negotiations ORL shall be entitled to ask the bidders to revise and amend their proposals to enable ORL, in its absolute discretion, to arrange for the policy cover conditions to have a common denominator and be as similar as possible in content.

  - The tender herein is a private one and ORL shall not be obliged to accept the cheapest or any other offer and it may waive any requirement or condition of the tender, split the contract and give notice of the tender's cancellation, all in its absolute discretion and without having to give reasons for its decisions or to compensate any bidder in any way whatsoever.
- The Tender Brochure
 

A detailed tender brochure may be obtained on request either by fax to (972) 4-878-8741 or by mail to Oil Refineries Ltd, PO Box 4, Haifa 31000, Israel, for the attention of Mr. Dan Drori.
- Proposals should be submitted by 11th December 1998 at noon, Israel time, to Leshem, Brandwein & Co., Law Office, either by fax to (972) 3-525-5123 or by mail to Leshem, Brandwein & Co., 50 Dizengoff Street, Tel Aviv 64332, Israel, for the attention of Mr. Zvi Fisher, Adv.

The proposals will be kept in confidence and on trust by Leshem, Brandwein & Co., Law Office, which will forward them to ORL's tenders committee.
- The provisions of the tender brochure take precedence over this announcement.



## BARAK

Continued from Page 2

In any case, Barak determined, such talks, whether they all in fact took place or not, are irrelevant. Labor has only one person who can speak in its name and that person is me. On this particular issue no one else matters.

Quoting the late Yitzhak Rabin, Barak added: "I will lead, I will negotiate, I will guide. I won't prevent anyone from meeting whomsoever he wants to meet. But it should be understood that all such meetings are meaningless. As to Sharon, I suggest that he return to the Foreign Ministry and desist from his efforts to ensnare Labor into the Netanyahu coalition."

In London, Netanyahu said yesterday that in his quest to expand the government, "all options are open." In a briefing, Netanyahu indicated that all possibilities were being investigated - including holding out an offer to segments

of the Labor Party.

Netanyahu said he had heard that Barak was "against the idea of unity," but confirmed that Sharon was "talking to all sorts of people" about joining the government.

Netanyahu set out the conditions for any unity government, saying that "anyone who wants to accept our ways is welcome." The prime minister mentioned as cardinal his stands on a united Jewish Jerusalem, against the establishment of a Palestinian state and in support of maintaining security zones in any pullback scenario.

In addition, he said, he would not stand for "any farce in regards to the upcoming PNC vote," nor would he be releasing any Palestinian prisoners with "blood on their hands."

"How the government will expand, and by how much - we will have to wait and see," Netanyahu said later at a press conference. "But, most importantly, we need to ensure that the government leads policy. I will not

include in my government, nor will I accept anyone, who will want to go in a different direction."

Netanyahu said the matter of expanding the government would be discussed further at the cabinet meeting on Monday.

Reacting to Netanyahu's statement in London to the effect that he will not publicly propose national unity to Barak, the Labor chairman replied that he "will not participate in this game of trial balloons, which Netanyahu is playing. The fact is that he has no majority and that his government is unworthy of confidence. In any normal country this is the time to turn to the electorate for a new mandate."

Should Netanyahu nevertheless invite him to open national unity talks, "I do not rule out talking to him on condition that he declares that he had adopted Labor's guidelines, that he understands he has erred and that he is willing to draw the conclusions arising from his errors."

## LEBANON

Continued from Page 1

"We have said that we will leave Lebanon only with the assurance that with our departure, the Hizbullah will not be able to strike out at our northern settlements, and that our southern Lebanese allies will be protected," Netanyahu said.

In a briefing with the Israeli press, Netanyahu said that despite the clear relationship between Iran and Syria and Lebanon, there was not necessarily a linkage between the restarting of talks with Syria and a withdrawal from Lebanon.

"If Syria were to enter into negotiations with us it would certainly make solving the Lebanese question easier, but we are not linking our reevaluation of the situation and our actions on movement on the Syrian front," Netanyahu said.

"We will try to reach an agreement with Syria, but not under preconditions. When Syria removes its dictates for preconditions, we will enter into talks. What the outcome of this will be, I can't say yet as it will probably take a long time," Netanyahu said.

He added that in the meantime, "we will be looking into ways to solve the matter of Lebanon without relation to Syria."

OC Northern Command Maj.-Gen. Gabi Ashkenazi said that the possibility of the involvement of residents of the Markabeh area in the recent wave of incidents was being investigated.

Members of the SLA's security apparatus, backed by Israeli security forces, conducted wide searches yesterday in Markabeh and other villages in the security zone near the Tel Kabah position.

Reports from Lebanon said dozens of residents were interviewed and that several people had been detained for questioning on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbullah.

In a briefing with reporters at

Northern Command headquarters yesterday, Ashkenazi said there had been over 1,000 incidents so far this year, almost double the number in 1997.

"There's no doubt Hizbullah has significantly increased its attempts to hit the IDF through a variety of means - counter fire, attempts to plant explosive devices and the shooting attacks of the kind we saw at Dlat," Ashkenazi said.

"Despite this and the difficulty of this moment, the number of [IDF] casualties has decreased this year... The IDF will continue to seek the best possible responses to the various threats," he said.

Former prime minister Shimon Peres called yesterday for a unilateral withdrawal from the zone under the auspices of UN Security Council Resolution 425.

Peres said such a move should be accompanied by a dire warning that any subsequent attacks against Israel would lead to severe and punitive retaliation.

Uri Lubrani, the government's coordinator on south Lebanon, responded that it was unrealistic to expect to make a unilateral pullback that would ensure the security of northern communities and the wellbeing of SLA soldiers and their families in the security zone.

"There are any number of alternatives, I see the alternative of unilateral withdrawal as an escape from reality," said Lubrani.

"I heard MK Peres say that we should withdraw unilaterally with threats. It's not the first time we have heard such declarations. I think this is a recipe for even more difficult and costly problems than we have today. I think it's a recipe for a reentry of the IDF into Lebanon and a widespread war there."

"If I was convinced that this alternative was a solution that would give Israel any sort of advantage, I would be the first to run into the streets and roar for it to be implemented," Lubrani said.

## Dry Bones



GRAPEVINE BY GREER FAY CASHMAN



A pride of lions: Lion of Judah Israel Division founding chairperson Faigle Zimmerman, right, and State Attorney Edna Arbel flank the charismatic Yardena Fanta. (Vera Bizon)

When members of the Israel branch of The Lion of Judah went to Beit Hanassi to meet Reuma Weizman, they didn't expect to meet President Ezer Weizman as well. But he wanted to convey something to his wife and so stepped out of his office into the main reception area - much to the delight of those present. Spying Raya Jaglom, well-known socialite and holder of numerous executive positions in volunteer organizations, Weizman crossed over to kiss her in greeting. He then turned around and bestowed two kisses on his wife.

The Lion of Judah, established 25 years ago by a group of 16 women in Miami, has since spread to other parts of the world, explained United Jewish Appeal national chairperson Carol Solomon. Today, there are 9,000 members, 55 of them in Israel. To become a member, said Israel chairperson Doris Weiser-Small, one has to give an annual gift of at least NIS 5,000 to one of the LI community welfare projects.

Founding Israel chairperson Faigle Zimmerman presented Reuma Weizman with the gold lion pin worn by LI members, and the president's wife made a point of removing the pin marking 50 years of the Israel Air Force to make room for the large gold lion. Although she felt uncomfortable accepting the pin when she hadn't made a NIS 5,000 contribution, Weizman said she was proud to wear it - especially since the lion is her zodiac sign.

NOT everyone present was a Lion of Judah member. But potential members were swayed into commitment not by Weiser-Small or Zimmerman, but by the amazingly articulate and charismatic Yardena Fanta. A Bar-Ilan University graduate in sociology and education who embodies Herzl's contention that "if you will it, it is no dream," Fanta told the story of her family's harrowing struggle to get to Israel from Sudan. Fanta, whose schooling in Ethiopia was minimal, was sent at age 14 to a Youth Aliya school, where she immersed herself in study. When catching up on her missed education seemed almost impossible, she told herself that if she could survive the journey through the desert, the studying should not be so difficult.

NOW that Haim Cohen, the former secretary general of the Jerusalem branch of the Labor party, has been ousted for joining Ehud Olmert's list in the recent municipal elections, there are several people clamoring to fill the vacant post. One of the front-line runners is Haim Maman, who holds the No. 2 position in the Jerusalem branch of the Histadrut. Cohen, who failed to get a seat on the Jerusalem city council, still has hope. Word is out that Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein is none too happy with the idea that Rafi Peled should also hold a council seat.

If there is a conflict of interest, it certainly isn't obvious to Peled's friends. But if Peled is forced to make a choice, it's hard to imagine that he will put the Jerusalem city council ahead of the IEC - especially if there's no guarantee of his becoming mayor. If Olmert decides to run for prime minister in the next elections.

SOCIETY columnists Sarah Davidovitch of Zman Habira and Edi Silansky of Index often get together to organize functions for worthy causes. One of their favorites is the Frankforter Center for the Aged in Jerusalem, on whose behalf they threw a party last Saturday night at the capital's Dan Pearl Hotel. The Dan Pearl provided the premises and the supper free of charge.

Guests included Uzi Manor of the Foreign Ministry, who spoke about the United Nations Year for the Aged and Israel's involvement in international activities designed to give seniors the honor and dignity to which they are entitled. Israel's former long-term ambassador to France, Ovadia Sofer, who is president of the Association for Aid to the Elderly, spoke warmly of the late Isidor Frankforter, a staunch French Zionist whom he had known personally, and whose commitment to Israel, he said, set an example for other French Jews.

Manor, who is opposed to stigmatizing people on the basis of age, noted that he had an aunt who, at 85, ran the largest record store in Haifa.

THE race is on for the presidency of Tel Aviv University. At the moment there is only one contestant, former Israel ambassador to the US Itamar Rabinovich, who will take up the post in June unless someone else runs against him in the interim. As the country's former envoy to one of the most prestigious diplomatic posts, Rabinovich need not have to go through the getting-to-know-you cycle to raise funds. He already knows the most important people in America.

EARLY this week, still ducking the media to avoid answering questions about Geshar joining the government coalition, MK, former foreign minister and minister-designate David Levy and his former dollar-a-year man Ya'acov Bardugo were seen dining at Max's Place, a Tel Aviv industrial zone eatery which specializes in American homemade kosher food. Levy must have felt so confident he wouldn't be recognized that he took a window seat - where he could also be spotted by passersby.

IN fashion: Gad Ze'evi, who is building the Grand Canyon in Haifa, which will be the largest shopping mall in the north, wants his new enterprise, due to open in time for next Rosh Hashana, to focus on fashion and fun. To prove the point, he hosted a fashion show at La Cortila, at the Jaffa end of Tel Aviv, to introduce his project and some of the designers whose clothes will be featured at the mall.

## BACKGROUND

Continued from Page 2

Only five guerrillas have been killed in close-quarter clashes in the second half of this year.

True to the classic formula of guerrilla warfare, the IDF is finding it more and more difficult to engage the Hizbullah on its own terms and where it holds the upper hand.

Hizbullah on the other hand has succeeded in making the IDF bleed, striking mainly at the routine IDF says the number of Hizbullah attacks has doubled in the past year, and has centered mainly in long-range missile, or mortar attacks or bombings. Last year Hizbullah carried out about 650 attacks. This year it has already carried out 1,100 attacks. According to official figures, 12

SLA soldiers were also killed and some 25 IDF troops wounded in the attacks. It's obviously not the victory Mofaz had in mind and the losses are something the Israeli public finds increasingly hard to stomach.

In a matter of speaking, the army has looked to the heavens for help and the Israel Air Force has answered. Its role has been greatly increased, particularly in the past month when it carried out 17 of its 61 strikes so far this year.

Next week, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will convene deliberations on the future Israeli military deployment in south Lebanon. Exactly one year ago, the defense establishment held a similar discussion and the decision was: the IDF was to stay in Lebanon as long as there was no agreement with Beirut (with the backing of Damascus). But a deci-

sion was made to vastly improve the fortifications of the outposts, tanks and other vehicles and to enhance anti-guerrilla capabilities among the troops.

The IDF did carry out this plan, investing over NIS 150 million in defenses there. IDF infantry all undergo a four-week anti-guerrilla course before heading to the Lebanon bush. But next week it is hardly unlikely to change its position that the IDF cannot withdraw its troops totally out of Lebanon out of fear that the SLA would collapse and the Hizbullah guerrillas would deploy southward and continue their war against Israel by attacking border settlements.

Some senior commanders have called for more aggressive tactics. Only, that might lead to more casualties and that is just what the army is trying so hard to avoid.

## HIZBULLAH

Continued from Page 1

At a certain stage, it appeared that the commanders decided to call "time-out" to devise new methods of operation, especially in the field of explosive devices, and to gather better intelligence to the point of IDF weak spots. This latter aspect has apparently been carried out with the aid of villagers in the south and almost certainly the collaboration of some residents of the security zone.

During the interim, Hizbullah maintained its pressure on the IDF mainly by long-range attacks and hitting the South Lebanese Army, especially in the Jezzine enclave

north of the zone.

The upsurge in more accurate shooting earlier this month and the attacks since then are an indication that Hizbullah has done its homework - only too well - and has managed to infiltrate at least one bomb-planting squad into the security zone. The main question is whether Nasrallah will order the organization to maintain activities at the present rate in the hope of scoring more points on the Iranian front, or will pull on the reins, fearing a punitive IDF reprisal. The Lebanese battlefield has its own dynamics and not even the wisest of analysts can hope to predict what will happen - other than that the fighting will continue in one form or another.

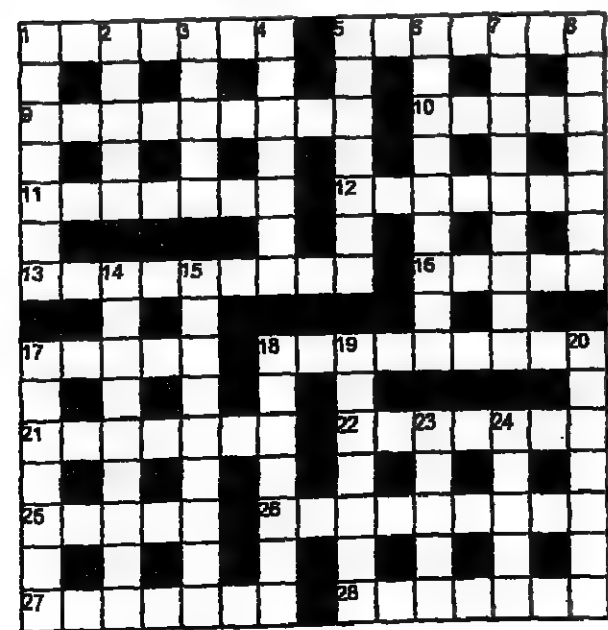
## CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- Uncle's business is selling fizzy drinks (3-4)
- Not the fare for noblemen (7)
- Skirt the issue to gain agreement (4,5)
- She broadcast daily (5)
- Tedious poet begging a flower to bloom (7)
- Bury a decapitated man in the meretime (7)
- Novel fortified building for this city (9)
- Walked around a region of Asia Minor (5)
- Consequently taken back to Aegean island (5)
- Retired medic shoots fellow commissioner (9)
- Former head of English entered punctually (3-4)

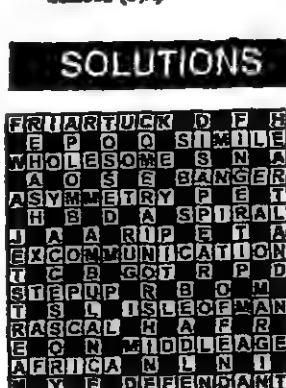
### DOWN

- Humiliating criticism gets recorded (3-4)
- A heart-throb full of beans, maybe (5)
- Max used to talk endlessly - endlessly (5)
- Cautious punter roughly hugged daughter (7)



### SOLUTIONS

- Fellow cleric heard to demand a painkiller (7)
- Was effective in brewing mild tea without it (9)
- Arrangement for many a catalogue customer (6-4)
- Thronged to see me covered in grass (7)
- Courted after having downed tools (3,3)
- Temperate Tibetans dispersed around noon (9)
- Try desperately to fit day below the entrance (2,2,3)
- Finished on time despite being past it (4-3)
- Public transport supreme performing in public (7)
- Has arrived, but clearly can't be found (7)
- Old German queen has to make adjustments (5)
- Admitted having left school (3,2)



Yesterday's Quick Solution  
ACROSS: 1. Ghazal, 4. Seize, 6. Eliot, 9. Padstow, 10. Spianey, 11. Brer, 12. See, 14. Leda, 15. Nemo, 16. Eve, 21. Hime, 22. Cornish, 25. Atlanta, 26. Agile, 27. Straw, 28. Reason. DOWN: 1. Cheese, 2. Orillon, 3. Antennae, 4. Soda, 5. Inter, 6. Edward, 7. Spays, 13. Esmeralda, 16. Orchids, 17. Triada, 19. Relat, 20. Severn, 23. Molar, 24. Aneur.

### QUICK CROSSWORD

#### ACROSS

- Rise aloft (4)
- Tips (6)
- Lyric poem (3)
- Sparkling wine (4)
- Flimsy dressing-gown (8)
- Mineral spring (3)
- Courage (4)
- Bookish (5)
- About (1,3)
- Dark-haired (8)
- Jason's ship (4)
- Curved line (3)
- Client (8)
- Ill-fated horse (4)
- Recline (3)
- Hypothesis (6)
- Confederate (4)

#### DOWN

- Unruly (12)
- Revel (7)
- Punitive (5)
- Metal bar (5)
- Diligent type (5)
- Of the nervous system (12)
- Simpleton (5)
- Age (3)
- Be in debt (3)
- Windpipe (7)
- Nick (5)
- Musical pace (5)
- Ahead of time (5)



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**THE WEATHER**

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**ISRAEL**

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Haifa 25/17  
Tel Aviv 27/16  
Jerusalem 25/14  
Dead Sea 28/17  
Beersheba 27/14  
Eilat 29/19

Israel: Considerable high clouds with limited sun across the nation today and tomorrow. Highs today 25-30. Lows tonight 6-20.

**EUROPE WEATHER TODAY**

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**ISRAEL CITIES**

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low	Monday High/Low
Ariel	25/17 12/53	26/18 13/55	24/16 11/52	20/8 10/49
Beersheba	27/16 14/57	27/16 15/58	25/19 13/55	23/11 11/52
Dead Sea	28/17 17/52	28/18 18/54	26/14 15/50	24/7 12/53
Eilat	29/19 18/53	28/18 19/55	26/14 15/50	24/7 12/53
Haifa	25/17 17/52	25/17 18/53	23/11 11/52	20/8 10/49
Jerusalem	25/14 14/57	25/17 12/53	23/11 11/52	20/8 10/49
Katmon	25/17 14/57	25/17 12/53	23/11 11/52	20/8 10/49
Netanya	25/17 14/57	25/17 12/53	23/11 11/52	20/8 10/49
Tel Aviv	27/16 16/51	27/17 16/52	25/19 13/55	23/11 11/52
Thiberias	25/17 14/57	25/17 12/53	23/11 11/52	20/8 10/49

Weather (W): sunny, partly cloudy, cloudy, all showers, thunderstorms, rain, snow, fog, hail, sleet, etc.

**INTERNATIONAL CITIES**

City	Today High/Low	Saturday High/Low	Sunday High/Low
Amsterdam	7/44 3/57	7/44 3/57	4/55 3/57
Berlin	10/50 4/55	9/49 3/57	11/52 3/57
Brussels	8/43 3/57	7/44 3/57	3/57 3/57
Calgary	2/10 1/51	1/51 1/51	1/51 1/51
Chicago	1/51 1/51	1/51 1/51	1/51 1/51
Frankfurt	5/32 3/57	3/57 3/57	3/57 3/57
Hong Kong	24/75 23/71	23/71 19/59	25/77 21/70
Johannesburg	24/75 18/51	25/77 18/51	25/77 18/51
London	10/50 4/55	9/49 3/57	11/52 3/57
Los Angeles	21/70 13/55	21/70 13/55	21/70 13/55
Madrid	12/53 5/41	12/53 5/41	13/55 3/57
Mexico City	21/70 13/55	19/59 7/44	20/8 3/57
Montreal	3/57 1/51	3/57 1/51	1/51 1/51
Moscow	9/16 1/51	4/55 1/51	4/55 1/51
New York	10/50 3/57	10/50 3/57	10/50 3/57
Paris	5/32 3/57	3/57 3/57	3/57 3/57
Peking	22/71 4/55	1/51 1/51	1/51 1/51
Rio de Janeiro	27/80 21/70	27/80 21/70	27/80 21/70
Rome	12/53 7/44	10/50 5/41	13/55 3/57
Sydney	25/77 19/59	19/59 12/53	19/59 12/53
Tokyo	17/52 10/49	17/52 10/49	17/52 10/49
Toronto	9/49 4/55	11/52 4/55	17/52 10/49
Vancouver	13/4 2/53	3/57 1/51	3/57 1/51
Washington	10/50 3/57	10/50 3/57	10/50 3/57
Zurich	2/53 3/57	3/57 3/57	3/57 3/57

## Don't leave them out in the cold

This time of year we are usually inundated with donations. This is good because we are always overwhelmed with requests for winter clothes and heaters, in addition to the usual gamut of needs. But something has happened this year, and I can only guess that everyone is tightening their belts because of the crazy world economy. Those of us who can afford to be more careful are lucky; we cut back on indulgences and small luxuries. But there are many people who can't cut back, they just do without. Imagine your children going to bed hungry. Lets not forget when it is most important to remember. Send your donation now.

Please rush your checks to: The Jerusalem Post Funds, P.O.B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem. We (Ilie Feldman, Judy Aminoff and Debi Rubin) can be reached by telephone at (02) 537-6528 if you wish to make a VISA credit card donation or if you have any queries.

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Funds, 270 Lafayette St., Suite 505, New York, NY 10012.

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#### TOY FUND

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#### FORSAKE ME NOT

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NIS 180 In memory of Beverlee Black, who enabled others to perform the mitzvah of charity - Anon.

NIS 100 Helena Benninga, J'm.

NIS 36 Anon., Ra'anana.

\$500 In honor of the birthday of Elizabeth Katz of Miami, Florida - the Robt Family, Miami, FL.

\$100 In memory of daughter, Anne L. Morrison - Vicki B. Phillips, KY. In honor of our children, Si and Chase - Barbara and Gregg Robins, Columbus, OH. In memory of parents, David and Tessa Krivins - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Krivins, Interlaken, NJ.

\$250 In memory of my dear wife Mildred K. Feuer and her sister Sheila Gottheim - Jack Feuer, Jackson Hts, NY.

\$100 In memory of father, Stanley J. Bordorf - Vicki B. Phillips, KY. In memory of parents Charles and Julia Ruskin - Dr. and Mrs. Harold Krivins, Interlaken, NJ.

Anon., Beersheba.

\$30 J.F. Linzer, NY.

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\$36 Anon., NJ.

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\$18 Dr. and Mrs. Bernard Kramer, Wallingford, CT. Marilyn Isler, NY.

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\$500 In honor of our granddaughters Tali-Alexandra and Hedi-Mirit Ohry-Kossov of Savoyon - Dr. and Mrs. Edward Kossov, Geneva.

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# Pollock causes West Indies to flutter

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — In typical fashion, South Africa worried away at the West Indian batting to leave them at 249 for seven at the close of play of the first day of the first Test yesterday.

The game at Wanderers Stadium marked the first time the two teams have met in a Test in South Africa. It is the first time they are playing each other in a full series after South Africa lost in Barbados in 1992 in its first Test match on its return after apartheid.

After a brilliant spell in the morning in which he took three for 19 in eight overs, Shaun Pollock was unable to make any further inroads. However, Allan Donald, who was dispatched for 50 runs off his first eight overs by an aggressive top order, came back to take two wickets; David Terbrugge took one on his debut and Jacques Kallis captured the only other wicket to fall.

West Indies captain Brian Lara pronounced himself happy with the 200 runs his team scored after the first three wickets fell so cheaply.

"I would have prepared a pitch with a truer bounce but losing only one wicket between lunch and tea is a good achievement," he said.

"I expect the pitch to deteriorate some time during the third day and I expect my spinners to do the job, especially Rawl Lewis."

He also had Carl Hooper and

Shivnarine Chanderpaul to thank for rebuilding the West Indies innings after Pollock's early spell. Hooper scored 44 before he became Donald's first victim when he flashed at one outside the off stump and edged a high catch to Darryl Cullinan's left at first slip.

He and Chanderpaul launched their rescue act after Pollock had ripped through the top order, taking three vital wickets (Clayton Lambert for eight, Philo Wallace for 16 and Brian Lara for 11). Their partnership for the fourth wicket earned 91 runs in 137 minutes.

Chanderpaul went on to record the first half-century of the series, batting with great patience and application against a tight line and length from the whole South African attack except Donald. It was a characteristic innings by the left-hander, bringing him his 15th Test 50, and another in a long line of his innings which have rescued the West Indies from a tight spot.

West Indies first innings: C.Lambert c Boucher b Pollock 8; P.Wallace b Pollock 16; B.Lara b Pollock 11; S.Chanderpaul 44; D.Hooper 44; S.Williams c George b Terbrugge 36; J.Jacobs c George b Kallis 14; N.McLean not out 20; R.Lewis not out 11; Extras (lb 6, nb 5, w 2) 13; Total (for seven wickets) 249; Fall of wickets: 1-77 2-24 3-41 4-132 5-177 6-188; To last: C.Ambrose, C.Wallis; Bowling (to date): Donald 20-3-63-2, Pollock 20-4-51-3 (6w), Kallis 15-5-37-1 (1w), Terbrugge 10-5-31-1, George 1-0-0-0, Symcox 18-4-27-0 (1w); South Africa: Gary Kirsten, Adam Bacher, Jacques Kallis, Darryl Cullinan, Hansie Cronje (captain), Jarryd Pople, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Paul Symcox, Allan Donald, David Terbrugge.



WINDIES MENACE — Shaun Pollock dismissed the West Indians' top order with three wickets in the morning session at the Wanderers in Johannesburg yesterday.

## Hurricanes down Sharks; Sabres stop Rangers

GREENSBORO, NC (AP) — Keith Primeau scored twice and goaltender Trevor Kidd returned to last year's form as the Carolina Hurricanes defeated the San Jose Sharks 3-0 Wednesday night.

The victory snapped a three-game losing streak for the Southeast Division-leading Hurricanes, while the Sharks remained the NHL's only winless team on the road, falling to 0-5-3 away from home.

Sabres 4, Rangers 2 — In Buffalo, New York, Petr Nedved returned to the New York Rangers in a five-player trade with Pittsburgh, but Dixon Ward and the Sabres spotted the moment.

Ward had his first career hat trick with two goals in the first period and another in the second. It was Ward's first multi-goal game in his third season as a Sabre and his first since he scored two goals for Vancouver on Jan. 4, 1993, when he and Nedved were Canucks teammates.

Darryl Shannon scored a power-play goal in the third period for the Sabres, unbeaten in their last six games at home (5-0-1) and unbeaten

in their last eight games against the Rangers (5-0-3).

Capitals 5, Penguins 4 — In Washington, Peter Bondra, who earlier reached the 500-point level, scored on a powerful slap shot from the top of the right circle with 3:48 remaining to give the Washington Capitals a 5-4 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Bondra had two goals and an assist for 502 career points and Chris Simon had a goal and two assists for the Capitals.

Stu Barnes scored three goals and Jaromir Jagr had three assists for the Penguins.

Bruins 1, Panthers 0 — In Sunrise, Florida, Sergei Samsonov scored a power-play goal late in the second period and goaltender Byron Dufour made 26 saves as the Boston Bruins defeated the Florida Panthers to extend their road unbeaten streak to five games.

Dufour notched his fourth shutout of the season to tie for the league lead and the 11th of his eight-year career.

Red Wings 5, Mighty Ducks 2 — In Detroit, Sergei Fedorov had a

goal and an assist in a three-goal first period, leading the Detroit Red Wings over the Mighty Ducks.

Darren McCarty, Tomas Holmstrom, Brendan Shanahan and Igor Larionov also scored goals and Larry Murphy added two assists for the Red Wings, who have won three straight after losing six of eight.

Paul Kariya scored both goals for Anaheim, which lost the opener of a six-game road trip after winning five of its previous seven games.

Maple Leafs 5, Canucks 1 — In Toronto, the Maple Leafs continued their domination of Western Conference teams, defeating the Vancouver Canucks in a battle of the two highest scoring teams in the NHL.

The Maple Leafs, who are 9-1-1 against the Western Conference since moving to the East this season, got two goals from Frederick Modin and one each from Mike Johnson, Steve Thomas and Dimitri Yushkevich.

Adrian Aucoin scored for the Canucks, who have lost three straight and five of their last six.

Vancouver is the only Western Conference team to beat Toronto this season.

Islanders 4, Flyers 2

In Uniondale, New York, Tommy Salo stopped 44 shots as the New York Islanders snapped the Philadelphia Flyers' four-game winning streak.

The Islanders won despite manag-

ing only 14 shots to the Flyers' 46.

Bryan Berard scored the game-winning goal in the third period as the Islanders continued their home-ice domination over the Flyers. The Islanders have a seven-game unbeaten streak at home against Philadelphia (6-0-1) since a 6-2 loss on April 2, 1996.

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey Devils	12	6	1	25	49	44
Pittsburgh Penguins	9	6	4	22	57	50
Philadelphia Flyers	9	7	4	22	52	43
N.Y. Islanders	10	11	0	20	57	57
N.Y. Rangers	5	9	6	16	49	54

Northwest Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Toronto	12	8	2	26	68	62
St. Louis	9	7	5	23	55	42
Buffalo	9	4	4	22	49	31
Calgary	8	4	3	21	55	46
Edmonton	7	10	2	16	45	55

Southeast Division

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	9	10	3	21	56	53
Washington	7	9	3	17	47	54
Florida	6	8	5	17	42	52
Tampa Bay	6	12	2	14	44	75

Wednesday's games: Buffalo 4, N.Y. Rangers 2; Washington 5, Pittsburgh 4; Carolina 3, San Jose 0; Toronto 5, Vancouver 1; N.Y. Islanders 4, Philadelphia 2; Boston 1, Florida 0; Detroit 5, Anaheim 2; Nashville 4, Calgary 3; New Jersey 5, Dallas 2; Edmonton 3, Colorado 0.

They need only beat Sturm Graz to clinch top spot although Real would also go through as one of the best runners-up if they won too, at home to Spartak Moscow.

Spartak lost ground with a goal-less home draw with Sturm.

Dynamo Kiev needed a lucky own goal by Panathinaikos defender Angelos Basinas — the ball bouncing into the net when a clearance hit his back — 11 minutes from time to beat the Greeks 2-1 in Ukraine.

Serbiya Rebrov had earlier equalized Andreas Lagonikakis's opener as the Greeks were the better side for much of the match.

Real Madrid were on course for the draw they wanted at the San Siro after Clarence Seedorf cancelled out Ivan Zamorano's opener for the Italians.

But Baggio, a 68th-minute substitute for the Chilean, scored in the 86th minute and again in injury time to put Inter in control of group C.

GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter Milan (Italy)	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Real Madrid (Spain)	5	3	0	2	15	7	9
Sp. Moscow (Russia)	5	2	2	1	6	4	8
Sturm Graz (Austria)	5	0	1	4	2	14	1

Wednesday's results: Inter Milan 3, Real Madrid 1; Spartak Moscow 0, Sturm Graz 0.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Real Madrid vs. Spartak Moscow, Sturm Graz vs. Inter Milan.

GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B. Munich (Germany)	5	3	1	1	9	5	10
Parma (Italy)	5	2	3	0	10	9	9
Barcelona (Spain)	5	1	2	2	9	9	5
Brussels (Belgium)	5	1	0	4	4	16	3

Wednesday's results: Bayern Munich 2, Borussia Dortmund 3; Manchester United 3, Lazio 0.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Manchester United vs. Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund vs. Lazio.

GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dyn. Kiev (Ukraine)	5	2	2	1	8	6	8
Paris (France)	5	2	2	1	4	3	7
Parma (Italy)	5	2	0	3	5	6	6
Ararat (Armenia)	5	1	2	2	5	7	5

Wednesday's results: Ararat 0, Lens 1; Dynamo Kiev 2, Panathinaikos 1.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: Panathinaikos vs. Arsenal, Lens vs. Dynamo Kiev.

GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Eintracht (Germany)	5	3	1	1	7	4	10
Benfica (Portugal)	5	2	1	2	6	7	7
PSV (Netherlands)	5	2	0	3	8	9	6
HJK (Finland)	5	1	2	2	6	7	5

Wednesday's results: HJK Helsinki 1, PSV Eindhoven 3; Benfica 2, Eintracht 1.

Wednesday, Dec. 9: PSV Eindhoven vs. Benfica, Eintracht vs. HJK Helsinki.

## SPORTS

in brief

### Angels give Vaughn \$80 million, six-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) — Mo Vaughn is leapingfrogging Mike Piazza to become the highest-paid player in US Major League baseball.

Vaughn, one of the most powerful left-handed hitters, agreed Wednesday to an \$80 million, six-year contract with the Anaheim Angels.

Vaughn's new deal, which includes a club option for 2005, has an average annual value of \$13.33 million, topping the \$13 million Piazza will average under his new \$91 million, seven-year contract with the New York Mets. Piazza, however, still has the contract with the most total guaranteed dollars.

If the option is exercised, Vaughn's deal would be worth \$92 million over seven seasons.

### Williams re-signs with Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — In a stunning signing, Bernie Williams returned to the New York Yankees on Wednesday, agreeing to an \$87.5 million, seven-year contract.

Williams, who had threatened to sign with the Boston Red Sox or Arizona Diamondbacks, gets a \$2.5 million signing bonus, \$9.5 million next year and \$12 million in each of the following six seasons.

The Yankees have a \$15 million option for 2006 with a \$3.5 million buyout. If the option is exercised, the deal would be worth \$99 million over eight years.

### Brown hands Scotland olive branch to Ferguson

GLASGOW (Reuters) — Scotland coach Craig Brown has opened the door to Newcastle United's Duncan Ferguson to return to international football less than a year after the striker said he would never play for his country again.

Brown responded yesterday to 26-year-old Ferguson's hint on Wednesday that he had had a change of heart about representing Scotland following his transfer from Everton.

"As far as I am concerned I am delighted Duncan has given us another option and I will be monitoring his progress over the coming months," Brown said.

Controversial Ferguson, once jailed while at Rangers after headbutting an opponent, was last capped 20 months ago against Estonia. He wrote to Brown last season before the World Cup Finals saying he was quitting international football in protest at his treatment by the Scottish Football Association over the headbutting incident.

### Blatter reaffirms Africa World Cup backing

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters) — FIFA president Sepp Blatter reaffirmed his support for an Africa bid to host the 2006 World Cup finals when he met South African president Nelson Mandela yesterday.

"It is logical that the World Cup finals go to Africa in 2006 and if they can prove they can organize it, then I will back it 100 percent," he said after awarding Mandela with the FIFA Order of Merit.

Blatter, who also met the South African World Cup bid committee, added: "Every other continent has had an opportunity and we now have to work to get it to Africa."

"I will repeat what I told the British Prime Minister Tony Blair at 10 Downing Street. We have to, by all means, ensure an African bid wins," Mandela, who awarded Blatter South Africa's highest civilian order in return, said the hosting of a World Cup in South Africa would contribute immensely to the "building of our democracy."

"We are relying on your support," he told Blatter in a brief ceremony on the steps of his home in Johannesburg.

### Ski legend Tomba indicted on tax charges

BOLOGNA (AP) — Former skiing star Alberto Tomba and his father were indicted yesterday on charges of tax fraud, and the court set a trial date in March 2000. Tomba's mother was cleared.

None of the defendants was present in the Bologna courthouse. The three-time Olympic champion, who announced his retirement from the slopes last month, is accused of failing to pay taxes on 23 billion lire (\$14 million) in income from 1990-96.

Franco Tomba is his son's business manager.

Tax fraud is punishable in Italy by up to five years' jail and fines.

### Warne fined for criticizing umpire's decision

PERTH (Reuters) — Australian leg spinner Shane Warne was fined A\$2,400 (\$1,500) yesterday after he was found guilty of breaching the Australian Cricket Board's code of conduct.

ACB chief executive officer Malcolm Speed said in a statement that Warne had been fined the equivalent of his match payment after he was found guilty of criticizing umpire Randolph Woolridge during a recent Sheffield Shield match.

Warne said at that time that Woolridge had erred in adjudging one of his Victorian teammates out leg before wicket in their match against Western Australia.

### Hadad wins Friedman masters

Amir Hadad won the masters event of the Friedman men's tennis satellite circuit in Ofakim yesterday.

Fourth seed Hadad, with a world ranking of 322, beat Lior Dahan (612) 7-5, 6-4.

Hadad clinched both the singles and doubles titles in the masters event, winning the latter together with Yoni Erlich on Wednesday.

Noam Behr won the first and Ofer Sela won the other two of three stages of the satellite circuit which culminated in the Masters event.

Players from ten countries competed. Heather Chait

### Casarea golf

It was golf with a difference at the best ball stableford competition at Casarea golf club last weekend with all the entry fees, NIS 8,400, being donated to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation of Israel.

Norma and Cyril Kaufman, Leslie Ben-Amir and Dick Fogelson finished first with a 13 under par 49 stableford points.

Second place went to Kobi Rogovin, Gideon Golan, Shmuelik Fuzer and Ben Hoffman on 47. On 45 and third place were Jules Cuhurnek, Esther Spinat, Jeff Strubel and Moshe Zarkover.

In the K-C two best ball stableford tournament, first place was snapped up by Sylvia Haas, Shlomo Chelouch, Charlie Scheibel and Dan Katzenbogen with 86 points. One point behind were Jeff Strubel, Avigdor Ophir, Aviv Levi and Shlomo Permin. Leading the scorers were Charlie Scheibel with a 77 gross and Jeff Strubel with a 79.

Heather Chait

### DiMaggio celebrates 84th birthday

with some positive health news

NEW YORK (AP) — Joe DiMaggio, recuperating from lung cancer surgery, had special reason to celebrate his 84th birthday.

Not only had DiMaggio survived at least one brush with death, but the news from one of his doctors was upbeat.

"The prognosis for his recovery is good," said Dr. Earl Barron, the lead doctor on a team of six physicians who have been treating the Hall of Fame outfielder.

DiMaggio's birthday gathering began about 6 a.m. Wednesday when he was joined in his hospital room by his brother Don, also a former big league outfielder, his sister-in-law, Emily, granddaughter, Paula, and her husband, Jim; his

friend and lawyer, Morris Engelberg, a couple of nurses and Barron.

Although they did not sing "Happy Birthday" or have cake, they shared a few quiet words and a lot of smiles.

The outlook was brighter than it had been in more than a month.

In a telephone interview AP, Barron for the first time confirmed DiMaggio had a cancerous tumor removed from his right lung on October 14, two days after entering hospital in Hollywood, Florida.

Because of his age, DiMaggio's progress is "guarded," Barron said, but he added that the New York Yankee great's condition was very good, compared to what it had been.

## NBA negotiating session canceled

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The NBA announced Wednesday that there will be no bargaining session with the players tomorrow and none are scheduled for the immediate future, erasing optimism generated by last Friday's marathon talks.

Less than a week after the sides appeared to be making progress towards ending the nearly five-month long lockout, talks again stalled, with the Players Association ripping the owners for trying to place preconditions on meeting again.

"It was agreed that we would meet this current Saturday and if necessary hold the players over for negotiations on Sunday and Monday," Billy Hunter, executive director of the Players Association, said on Wednesday.

"All the players were flying into town with the expectations of negotiating."

Hunter said he received a fax Tuesday night from NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik "insisting that he presented us with an ultimatum including three issues for preconditions to meet."

"I informed him that we would not meet the conditions but that all negotiable items were up for negotiation. Russ then informed me that there was no need for a meeting. He said it would not be worth the effort. He said he would get back to me when they would be inclined to meet."

### WINNING CARDS

in yesterday's Mifal Hapais daily chance drawing

8	A	8	A
8	A	10	8
9	A	J	Q

## Kaiserslautern through but rest go to the wire

LONDON (Reuters) — The penultimate round of the European Champions' League produced all its expected drama on Wednesday but not all the anticipated results as only Kaiserslautern were able to make certain of a place in the quarter-finals.

A goal by Juergen Rische in injury time proved more than mere consolation for the Germans in their 2-1 defeat at Benfica as it gave them a superior head-to-head record over the Portuguese side and guaranteed their quarter-final berth.

Ajax Amsterdam, who also expected to advance, were instead stunned 1-0 at home by Croatia Zagreb to hand the group A initiative to Olympiakos Piraeus, 2-1 victors over Porto.

Barcelona are out after a classic 3-3 home draw with unbeaten Manchester United, leaving Bayern Munich needing a draw at Old Trafford in their final game after they beat Brondby 2-0.

Defending champions Real Madrid also slipped from top spot in group C after losing 3-1 at Inter Milan as substitute Roberto Baggio scored twice in the last five minutes for the Italians.

Group E remains tight, with only Arsenal out of contention following their 1-0 home defeat by RC Lens.

The French club are locked together on eight points with Dynamo Kiev, who needed some luck to edge Panathinaikos 2-1.

Lens and Dynamo meet in France in the final game, with Panathinaikos praying the match ends in a draw allowing them to make it a three-way

tie with victory over Arsenal.

With Juventus's game against Galatasaray postponed, perennial party-poopers Rosenborg Trondheim took the chance to go to the top in group B, thanks to a 2-1 home victory over Athletic Bilbao.

Zagreb substitute Josip Simic scored the only goal of the game in Amsterdam and severely dented the 1995 winners' chances of making the last eight.

Ajax had the best of the match but now face an almost impossible task after dropping to third behind Croatia Zagreb and leaders Olympiakos.

Olympiakos goalkeeper Dimitris Eleftheropoulos saved a penalty as the Greeks beat Porto to go three points clear and a draw in Zagreb will see them through.

Barcelona failed to advance for the second consecutive season but they went out in a memorable match against Manchester United.

GROUP A

they went out in a memorable match against Manchester United.

**GROUP A**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos (Greece)	5	3	1	1	7	5	10
Ajax (Netherlands)	5	2	1	2	4	3	7
Croatia (Croatia)	5	2	1	2	4	6	7
Faro (Portugal)	5	1	1	3	8	9	4



## Inside

## Pollock strikes against Windies

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## Sports Editors

Joe Hoffman &amp; Ori Lewis

## Mac. Haifa look to climb to second

By ORI LEWIS

Maccabi Haifa appear poised to move up to second place in the National League standings tomorrow.

The Haifaies will jump ahead of current second-placed team, Hapoel Petah Tikva, if they beat Ironi Ashdod in Ashdod tomorrow afternoon in the only top league fixture of the weekend. The match kicks off at 4 p.m. in Ashdod.

Haifa's Yossi Benayoun should get a boost for the match after reports that Italian club Lazio were prepared to pay \$5 million for him on the spot.

Benayoun will not be going to Rome, however, as the 18-year-old must complete his IDF service first.

Haifa will be at full strength for the clash as the rest of the National League concentrates on the Toto Cup this weekend.

## Sampras No. 1 for record 6th year

HANNOVER (Reuters) - Pete Sampras crowned a fine day by outclassing Slovakian Karol Kucera at the ATP Tour world championship last night.

Chilean world No. 2 Marcelo Rios, Sampras' only rival in the race for number one, had earlier withdrawn injured from the season's finale, making the American certain to finish the year in top spot for a record consecutive sixth time.

Being arguably the best player of all time was not good enough for Sampras, who knew others had won more tournaments, more grand slams or spent more weeks in the number one position.

Now, at least, he has an unprecedented feat to his name and he strongly believes his achievement will stay as history.

"I had put myself under a lot of pressure to do this," he said. "It's not going to be done again." As if to underline his domination, Sampras, who had already made sure of a berth in the semifinals, taught world No. 7 Kucera a tennis lesson on his way to a spectacular 6-2 6-1 win.

Cheered by Mexican waves from an enthusiastic 11,000 crowd in the Hannover hall, he hit astonishing winners almost at will, sealing victory in just 45 minutes.

Tim Henman, who became the first British player to secure a place in the semifinals of the year-ending event by taming Spaniard Alex Corretja in three sets, said he understood most of the talk would be on Sampras.

"It's a phenomenal achievement," the Briton world No. 9, who beat Corretja 7-6 6-7 6-2, said of the American's record. "It's tough for anyone else really to comprehend. I don't think it's one that's going to be broken for a long, long time, if ever."



PISTOL PETE RULES - Pete Sampras celebrated his record with a demolition of Karol Kucera yesterday.

Rios, a mere 33 points behind Sampras at the start of the week, needed a better result than the American here to finish 1998 in front.

The Chilean had said back pain might force him out after his straight

sets defeat by Henman in his opening match on Tuesday.

"I trained in the morning and it was really, really sore," he said yesterday. "It does not make any sense to go out there and play two games before quitting. It's tough but that's

the way it goes." Rios, who knocked Sampras off his perch for two brief periods earlier this year, paid tribute to the American's unique feat.

"To end No. 1 six years in a row is great," he said.

"It's tough to say if it will be broken."

ken." Sampras ended the year as No. 1 for the fifth straight time last year, equalling the record set by American Jimmy Connors from 1974 to 1978. Rios left his place to Spain's Albert Costa, who lost to Briton Greg Rusedski in the battle of alternatives.

Rusedski, who stepped in after American Andre Agassi retired with a back injury on Wednesday, wasted nine set points before taking the first set in a tie break. He then relied on his heavy artillery to cruise to a 7-6 6-1 win over the Spaniard, who has never won an indoor match in his professional career.

"You kind of feel pressure because it's one of those matches you feel you should really never lose so I was a little bit tight in there today, as you saw," said Rusedski.

Henman, who showed more composure when it mattered most to beat baseliner Corretja in an exciting clash of styles, will qualify even if he loses his last round-robin match against Rusedski today.

Rusedski will make it to the semifinals if he beats Henman and Costa beats Corretja.

## Sampras's place in history

HANNOVER (Reuters) - Pete Sampras earned a line of his own in the record books at last.

The elegant American, who was voted best player of the last 25 years by a panel of experts last year, is regarded by many as the finest tennis player of all time.

But in the statistics, others were ahead of him.

Five players - all retired - have won more tournaments than he has.

Two, Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl, have spent more weeks at No. 1.

Australian Roy Emerson has won one more grand slam with 12 victories.

For all those reasons, and because he sometimes feels that he does not get all the credit he deserves, the 27-year-old was really obsessed with the record.

"I think it's up there with the greatest achievements in tennis," he said before the start of the year-end ATP Tour world championship. "I don't think it will ever be broken."

"It was hardly talked about," Sampras said. "I found that tough."

"I'll just go out and play and not worry about the pressure," Sampras said when he arrived in Hannover. "I've been in this situation before, with expectations pretty high." But this time was really special.

"To have in your hands a record that you will maybe hold for ever, rare," he said. "This is an important week for me."

Sampras had retained his Wimbledon title this year but did not look quite as awesome as in previous seasons, partly because of injury worries.

Rios, meanwhile, enjoyed a tremendous run, winning seven titles and knocking the American off his perch for two brief periods.

But in the final stretch, Sampras showed his class, crushing Russian Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Spaniard Carlos Moya to reach the last four of an event he has won four times already.

Struggling with back pain, Rios, who needed to go further than Sampras in the tournament, lost his first match to Briton Tim Henman and withdrew on Thursday, shortly before his second round robin match.

"To end number one six years in a row is great," said Rios, paying tribute to his rival's unique feat. "It's tough to say if it will be broken." Oddly enough, the mild-mannered American and the hot-blooded Chilean have faced each other only once, more than four years ago.

It was at the 1994 French Open and Rios, then an anonymous 18-year-old who had just turned professional, put up a brave fight before bowing out in three sets in a second round match.

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